XUM

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FORM, COST, AND SALES

SIX years ago a Parliamentary Select Committee, having examined a considerable number of official publications, and found (like everybody else who has had to work among them) much to criticise in the method of their preparation and the form in which they were issued, made a certain recommendation, which the Treasury adopted. It was that the Government departments should consult the Stationery Office not only before their documents were sent to the printer, but before the copy itself was prepared. Treasury circulars to the various departments enforced this recommendation, but it appears that the rule has not been systematically followed. At all events, in one now notorious case the Select Committee of last session was informed that the routine observed by the Local Government Board had cut off the Stationery Office entirely from any possibility of preventing what it "considered to be a very grave waste of public money." That is an important point, which we may hope has received attention in the proper quarters; but what we are here concerned with is rather the general state of affairs which led to the recommendation of the Select Committee and the value of that recommendation as a remedy for a costly, vexatious, and quite unnecessary evil. The badness and dulness of very many Blue Books, and the repellent form of practically all of them, are, it is quite certain, not going to be improved away by the single means of regular consultation between the Stationery Office and the Government departments. The heads of the former are, of course, experts in their own line. They are, indeed, it may be admitted, a good deal in advance of the Whitehall officials in many matters connected with the production of official literature; but the needed reforms are much more important and far-reaching than anything that can be accomplished by the unaided, though combined, efforts of official compilers and official printers.

We have dealt already in the BLUE BOOK SUPPLEMENT with some of the more important questions of style, price, and methods of distribution. The subject so far has not been anything like completely explored, and year by year the Select Committee provides fresh material, some of it of a curious, not to say startling, character. This is certainly true of the evidence taken last session (House of Commons Paper, No. 224 of 1913, 5½d.), which deserves to be carefully studied by everyone who, for whatever reason, is interested in the reform and development of the great publishing concern carried on by the Government of the United Kingdom.

The Select Committee, as our readers will know, advised the lowering of the price of official publications in proportion to the actual cost; and they recommended that the existing contracts between the Stationery Office and the various firms of printers should be extended for two years (*i.e.*, to the end of 1915) in order that the important question as to the establishment of a central Government Printing Department might be thoroughly examined and discussed. This delay is opportune. The Stationery Office has a comparatively new Controller; the subject of Blue Books in relation to the public is one which arouses a continually increasing measure of attention, and we may express the hope that the time available before the question of the Government Printing Department has to be disposed of will be utilised to the fullest extent by politicians, social workers, and writers in the Press.

So much for the main recommendations of the last Select Committee. Let us look at a few of the very interesting points that were brought out in the evidence. Sir Courtenay Ilbert, Clerk of the House of Commons, made a strong appeal for a more economical system of preserving the records of Parliament, and his proposals received the cordial approval of the Select Committee. He pointed to the needless waste involved in the separate printing of the Journals and the Debates, and, while expressing great reverence for the old forms of Parliament, he urged their simplification, and even suggested that the Journal should be reduced from folio to octavo size—although, as he confessed, he was sure to be told that he was laying hands on a sacred thing. To advise such changes as these requires, in an official occupying Sir Courtenay Ilbert's position, no little courage; and we hope that no worshipper of ancient ritual will be moved to argue that the distinguished Clerk of the Commons has earned his rest. Clearly, he has an important service to render to Parliament and the country before the time comes for him to leave the Table.

Parliamentary printing, on the present system, entails a needlessly heavy expenditure of public money; but other kinds of official publishing involve a direct imposition upon the purchasing public. A recent report on Buildings for Small Holdings (Cd. 6708), for which a large sale might confidently have been anticipated, was priced at 11s. 3d. Mr. Atterbury, the present Controller of the Stationery Office, explained to the Select Committee that if it had been issued as a Stationery Office publication instead of a Command Paper, the price would have been 2s. 9d. on a small edition, 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. on a large edition. This example, on which the Select Committee naturally made something of a stir, was probably an exception; but there is nothing exceptional about the arrangements for the price and sale of the Ordnance Maps, which formed the subject of a most illuminating conversation between members of the Select Committee and

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Colonel Close, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. The large-scale maps are sold to the public through agents appointed directly by the Ordnance Survey Department; they are allowed a discount of 25 per cent. The sale throughout the country of the small-scale maps (familiar to every cyclist, motorist, and tramper) is, Colonel Close explained, on a different footing; for it is a monopoly enjoyed by a single fortunate and enterprising publisher, who receives a discount of 53⅓ per cent., and in his turn allows the booksellers and railway bookstalls a discount of 36⅔ per cent. This is, of course, a perfectly legitimate bargain for the department to make with its publisher or agents, who have done far more in the way of advertising than any old-fashioned Government department could bring itself to attempt. But the question will naturally be asked, How does such an arrangement affect the price to the public in relation to the actual cost of the maps? This point was discussed at some length and in useful detail by Colonel Close. The most popular of the Ordnance Survey maps is the one-inch scale map, mounted in sections. The actual cost is 8d. or 9d.; the price to the public is 2s. So that a map in regular and increasing demand all over the country is actually being sold for double the price at which it might easily be made procurable through the Post Office; or, to put it another way, is regularly bringing the publisher and his agents a handsome profit, which might go direct to the Government as producer. Colonel Close was questioned as to the effect of price upon sales, and he expressed the original view that "if the 2s. maps were suddenly priced at 1s., very likely the sales would not go up." There was, he added, "a price which the public expects to pay for a map." If that is so, and the somnolent public declines to revise its expectation, even in the face of a 50 per cent. reduction, we must conclude that both Blue Books and maps are destined to remain inaccessible by reason of excessive cost or outworn methods of distribution. But, after all, the Controller of the Ordnance Survey, as head of a department so far behind the needs of the age in the matter of publicity, is not likely to be much of an authority on this particular point. Let the Government, therefore, without waiting for the establishment of a State Printing Department, determine to revolutionise its methods of publishing, printing, and distribution. It will pay.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Seventy-fourth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England and Wales (1911). Cd. 6578. 5s. 8d.

A number of important changes have been introduced into the Registrar-General's Report during the past three years. The administration area has been substituted for the registration area as the unit of tabulation for births and deaths. Parliament has not yet taken the urgently-needed step of identifying the registration with the administration area. Consequently a complicated system of sorting cards is necessary in order to transfer the records from one set of areas to the other; and it has not yet been found possible to apply this system to the tabulation of the statistics of marriage. Two other important changes are the use of the International List of Causes of Death, and the allocation of all deaths as far as possible to the area of residence. The introduction of the administration area as the basis of tabulation has involved a considerable increase in the size of the report, since there are 1,885 administration areas, as against only 634 registration districts. Other additions have been made to the plan of the report, which now appears in folio size. It is hoped that in future the Annual Report will appear not later than the autumn of the year succeeding that to which it relates. The Registrar-General once more pleads for a quinquennial census.

The statistics of marriage show a proportionate increase for the year 1911 over the three preceding years (no doubt owing to the good state of trade), although, taking the last half-century, there has been a steady decline in the proportion of marriages to the number of marriageable persons. The fall in the marriage-rate in the last thirty years is greatest among widowers, and least amongst widows. In 1911, 61 per cent. of the number of divorced persons remarried, whereas in 1876–80 the percentage was only 19. The decline in the control of religious organisations over marriage continues as rapidly as ever. In 1862 four-fifths of the marriages were solemnised by the Church of England. In 1911 the proportion was three-fifths. Whereas 631 marriages out of every 1,000 took place in 1906 with Anglican rites, the number was only 610 in 1911. The proportions of both Catholic and Nonconformist marriages are now remaining fairly constant. Civil marriages increase at the expense of the Church of England; in 1911 they numbered 209 in every 1,000 marriages (267 in London). In 1901 they were only 158 in every 1,000 (176 in London).

The proportion of married women in the female population aged 15–45 was slightly greater in 1911 than in either 1891 or 1901. It remains pretty constant at slightly less than a half of the total number of women 15–45. (The "odd women" do not, therefore, constitute a growing problem.) But, as is well known, the age for marriage steadily goes up. In 1911 less than one woman in ten aged 20–25 was married. Since the potential fertility of women diminishes with advancing age even within the limits 15–45, the fact that the average age of married women increases more than counteracts, as regards the birth-rate, the slight increase in the proportion of wives. The decline in the legitimate fertility on married women aged 15–45 is shown in an interesting table to be greater than both the decline in fertility on the whole female population aged 15–45 and the decline of the birth-rate on the total population at all ages. Mining populations have high birth-rates. It is more surprising to find that, alike in the North, Midlands, South, and Wales, there are higher birth-rates in the county boroughs than in the smaller urban areas. But, owing to the excess of infantile mortality in the largest towns, in the absence of migration the natural increase in these would have been less than that of the country at large; while that of the rural districts would have been the same as, and that of the small urban districts greater than, the natural increase of the whole country. The best measure of the illegitimate birth-rate is a comparison of the number of illegitimate births with the number of unmarried and widowed females aged 15–45. Stated in this form, the illegitimate birth-rate appears highest in rural districts and lowest in London.

Special prominence is given in the section of the introduction to the report devoted to mortality statistics to "the constancy with which the mortality of both sexes in the North exceeds that of other parts of England at all ages and in all classes of society." According to Dr. Stevenson, the writer of the introduction, no satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon has yet been discovered. But will not any Southerner, who has spent a few years in the North, be immediately inclined to attribute it to the greater severity of the climate, especially in the winter? There may be some objection to this amateur explanation, since it is such an obvious one. Dr. Stevenson's argument that inferior sanitary conditions cannot be an important contributory cause of the phenomenon is not altogether convincing, perhaps because it is not stated very clearly (p. xxxii). Wales occupies an intermediate position between the North and the South in regard to its general death-rate, but it possesses an exceptionally heavy death-rate amongst women aged 15–35. This is proved to be partly due to the particularly marked prevalence of phthisis among Welsh women of these ages. But it appears that some cause other than phthisis is at work to produce high mortality rates among young Welsh women. Is it not possible that the fact is not unconnected with their markedly high fertility? It might be possible to test this explanation from the figures in the hands of the Registrar-General, if there is likely to be anything in it. An interesting comparison is given between the "standardised mortality" of males and females throughout England and Wales since 1841. While the standardised mortality of females has

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fallen by 33·8 per cent., that of males has only fallen by 28·2 per cent. The excess of the mortality of males over that of females has thus been increasing steadily, and it was never greater than in 1911, being exactly 2 per thousand higher for males. Cancer caused a higher death-rate both among males and among females than in any preceding year, but the rates from bronchitis and from phthisis, as well as from all forms of tuberculosis, were lower than in any previous year except 1910. The possibility of variations in diagnosis at different times and places makes it difficult to speak with certainty about the reality of the increase in cancer; but there certainly is a strong possibility that a real increase has taken place.

Infantile mortality is the subject of valuable discussions in Dr. Stevenson's introduction. An interesting diagram shows the relation between infantile mortality and the climatic conditions during the third quarter of the year. There is no doubt now that infantile mortality is steadily declining. The temporary rise in 1911 was, as was fairly obvious at the time, due to the hot, dry summer. But if the steady decline of the previous years had been due solely to the cool summers which have prevailed during the present century, the rate in 1911 should have returned to the level of 1899, which was the last year comparable with 1911 in climatic conditions. It remained, however, more than 30 per thousand births below the 1899 level. Moreover, if diarrhœal diseases (which are more the outcome of climatic conditions than the other causes of infantile deaths) are excluded, then the decline during the present century is much less disturbed by fluctuations, and the rise of 1911 appears very small. It is not generally realised that both the county boroughs and the small urban districts of the South succeed in preserving a larger proportion of their infants than even the rural districts of the North, while, of course, the contrasts between both the urban and the rural districts of the two areas are each much more marked. The study of the mortality of illegitimate infants is particularly valuable as throwing a light upon the directions in which assistance is most needed for the unmarried mother. The illegitimate infant, probably owing to its more frequent solitude, suffers practically no excess of mortality owing to infectious disease over the legitimate infant. The excess of its mortality owing to congenital defects was also very slight. But fatal injury at birth is much commoner with illegitimate infants—no doubt owing to the confinement of the mother under disadvantageous circumstances. The mortality from diarrhœa and enteritis is also twice as great, probably owing to bad feeding. Many other interesting points connected with infantile mortality are dealt with in the report and introduction.

THE EXTENSION OF TRADE BOARDS

Special Report from the Select Committee on the Trade Boards Act Provisional Orders Bill. H. of C. 209. 6½d.

Few students of social economics, probably, will take the trouble to disentangle from the sixty pages of evidence before the Select Committee, which is included in this report, the story of the defeat of the attempt to extend the Trade Boards Act to certain sections of the laundry workers. Yet the details of the proceedings afford a remarkable example of the working of the English constitution in connection with social reforms. The Board of Trade were pressed to include the whole of the laundry workers in the Provisional Orders Bill for the extension of the Trade Boards Act; but they were of the opinion that it would be administratively impracticable to deal with the large numbers of small hand laundries (Qq. 264, 464–6). They were evidently averse from including *all* workers in power laundries and excluding *all* workers in hand laundries from fear of the argument, which would be advanced by the power laundry companies, that this would unduly handicap them in their competition with their smaller rivals—though, as a matter of fact, the power laundries are steadily crushing the hand laundries out of existence (Q. 627). They found that the worst paid section of the workers were the calenderers, of whom 43 per cent. were, according to the wage census of 1906, paid under 10s. a week (Q. 642). Miss Collett, the Board of Trade's chief woman investigator, recently visited 130 laundries, and could not find that there had been any increase of wages since 1906 (Q. 349). The Board were under the impression that calendering was entirely confined to power laundries. They therefore took the view that if it were proposed to regulate the wages of the calenderers alone, the argument with regard to the competition of the hand laundries would be less strong, because this particular class of workers did not exist there—a typical line of thought of the clever official, which will leave most of the outside public wholly unmoved (Qq. 264, 374, and p. 31). As it appeared that machine ironers might easily be employed to do the work of calender hands, it was decided to schedule this occupation also, although some of the machine ironers, unlike the calender hands, are highly skilled and receive relatively good wages (Qq. 264, 266). The definition of the scheduled trade in the Bill was therefore drafted as follows: "The trade of calendering and machine ironing in steam laundries."

After the issue of the Provisional Order the Federation of Laundry Associations sent a deputation to the Board of Trade to protest against the legal regulation of the wages of any of their employees. Amongst other points, the deputation urged that the term "steam laundries" did not cover either hand laundries containing hand-driven machines or laundries with machines driven by electrical power, of which a few exist. The Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade said: "We have noted that point. That will have to be met. Steam must include power of all kinds, of course" (Qq. 686–7, 691). Nevertheless, the Bill was sent to the Select Committee with the definition unaltered. The Board of Trade sent as their first witness before the Select Committee not an expert official who had first-hand acquaintance with the laundry trade or with the working of Trade Boards, but the Second Secretary of the Board, who deals with such questions only indirectly. Unfortunately, also, the Second Secretary had evidently been badly "coached" by his subordinates. These preliminary errors of judgment had disastrous consequences in the proceedings before the Select Committee. The Second Secretary of the Board admitted at an early stage in his evidence that hand calendering machines (which might conceivably be used in hand laundries) had been shown in exhibitions, but stated that he believed that they were not yet in actual use (Q. 397). He said, however, that, if they were, the Board of Trade would not object to the amendment of the Order so as to include calendering in all laundries (Qq. 381, 490). He further rather vaguely suggested that a laundry with machinery driven by electrical power might be termed a "steam laundry," because it possessed a boiler for heating water for washing. He was apparently ignorant as to whether any laundries were driven solely by electrical power, but stated that the Board of Trade were ready to accept the substitution of the word "power" for "steam" (Qq. 277–282). These admissions gave the leading counsel for the laundry employers an opening, which he was not slow to use. The chairman would not admit that counsel possessed a right to cross-examine Government officials before a Select Committee on a Bill of this character, but conceded it, without prejudice to future occasions (pp. 4, 31). The laundry employers' counsel thereupon proceeded to intersperse his cross-examination with exhibitions of discourtesy, which would scarcely be tolerated in any gathering of trade unionists or co-operators (see Qq. 485, 488, 492–5, 611). But he undoubtedly had a strong technical case. He pointed out that a Select Committee could not amend the Order so as to extend it, and that they only had power to cut it down (p. 28); therefore the inclusion of calendering in hand or in electrically driven laundries was impossible. Counsel further claimed that if the Board of Trade adopted the course of withdrawing the Order and issuing a new one, time should be given to the persons affected to consider the position (Q. 384). The witness put

forward by the laundry employers admitted that very few laundries were in point of fact driven solely by electrical power (Q. 690); and no conclusive evidence was brought forward to prove that the theoretically possible hand calendering machine was actually in use to any considerable extent in hand laundries (see Q. 539). The Board of Trade, further, towards the end of the proceedings, attempted to argue that, on the analogy of the definition of "steam" contained in the Merchant Shipping Act, the word might be held to cover all kinds of power (Qq. 550, 640). But the Committee felt bound to yield to the technical points brought forward by the laundry employers' counsel, and cut the machine ironers and calenderers altogether out of the Bill (pp. iii, 48). The attempt of the Labour member on the Committee to get the case stated for including all laundry employees was without avail (pp. 35, 45). Thus the sweated laundry employee must wait at least another year before the machinery for redressing her wrongs will even be established—let alone begin to move.

The Select Committee approved the Orders with regard to Sugar, Confectionery and Food Preserving, Shirt-making, Hollow-ware making, and the Linen and Cotton Embroidery Trade. These have since become law.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Statistics of Compensation and of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1912. Cd. 7088. 6d.

This important document by the Director of the Industrial Division of the Home Office contains the statistics of workmen's compensation in seven great groups of industries (viz., mines, quarries, railways, factories, harbours and docks, constructional works and shipping), comprising 136,279 employers and nearly 7½ million workpeople. In these industries in the year 1912 compensation was paid in 3,599 cases of death (average payment, £158), and 424,406 cases of disablement (average payment, £6 3s.). The actual cost of compensation payments amounted to £3,174,101. But the expenditure incurred in law costs, administration expenses, payments to doctors, etc., brings the cost of the Act up to an estimated total of nearly 5 millions. The returns of the Insurance Companies to the Board of Trade for 1911 show that 34 per cent. of their total expenditure in connection with accident compensation was incurred for commission and expenses of management, while legal and medical expenses, as well as actual compensation payments, are included in the remaining 66 per cent. (This last statement relates to workmen's compensation in all employments included under the Act, and not merely to the seven groups of industries specified above.)

The annual charge per person employed for compensation payments (apart from administration expenses) works out as follows: Shipping, 15s. 9d.; Factories, 5s.; Docks, £1 1s. 4d.; Mines, £1 1s. 10d.; Quarries, 11s. 3d.; Constructional Work, 11s. 7d.; Railways, 8s. 2d.; all industries, 8s. 7d. In the coal-mining industry the charge under the Act works out at about 1·05d. per ton of coal raised. In 1906 compensation was paid in 3,473 fatal cases to the amount of £536,123, and in 325,484 disablement cases to the amount of £1,544,549. In 1912 the corresponding figures were 3,599 fatal cases, £567,107; 424,400 disablement cases, £2,606,994. The increase in the disablement cases has been steady throughout the five years. It is due to (1) better knowledge and use of the Act (including legitimate growth in the average duration of incapacity); (2) increase in numbers employed, from 6½ millions in the seven groups of industries in 1909 to 7½ millions in 1912; (3) increase in hours worked owing to good trade; (4) improper claims and malingering; (5) accumulation of cases of permanent incapacity; (6) increase in amounts paid in redemption of weekly payments. It is impossible to estimate the relative importance of all these causes.

The total number of cases taken into court under the Workmen's Compensation Act in 1912 was 10,972; but only 5,858 of these were original claims for compensation finally settled within the cognisance of the court. In 76 per cent. of these 5,858 cases the decision was given in favour of the workman. The Director of the Industrial Division of the Home Office complains of the abuse by Scottish employers of the right to appeal to medical referees; 252 appeals were taken by employers (as compared with 81 in England and Wales), and only 33 succeeded. The number of cases taken under the Employers' Liability Act continues to decline steadily. It was 604 in 1907 and 197 in 1912

THE SCOTTISH CENSUS

Report on the Twelfth Decennial Census of Scotland. Volume II. Cd. 6896. 6s. 2d.

The population of Scotland, now 4,760,904, has increased during the decade 1901–11 by 288,801, or 6·5 per cent., this being the smallest increase which has been known since 1871. It appears that Scotland lost over a quarter of a million persons (254,042) by emigration during the ten years in question. This is the largest decennial loss by emigration yet recorded. In fifteen out of the thirty-three counties, and in 338 out of 871 parishes, there are decreases in population. Four counties—Argyll, Sutherland, Perth and Berwick—have a smaller population than in 1801. The section of the population aged from 30 to 60 has increased considerably. The sections in the different quinquennial age periods under thirty have either increased very slightly, or have decreased. There is a decrease of six thousand in the number of children aged under five. The passing of the Old Age Pensions Act appears to have caused a considerable fictitious increase in the number of persons alleged to be aged between 65 and 75, and a corresponding fictitious decrease in the number of persons alleged to be aged from 60 to 64. 64·89 per cent. of the male population and 64·90 per cent. of the female population are residing in the counties of their birth. The remainder have migrated into other counties.

There is a striking decline of 22·5 per cent. in the number of males (now 96,087) returned as having occupations connected with the building trades. Male agricultural labourers number 71,541, which is 2,253 less than in 1901. But the number of persons holding land in larger or smaller quantities for agricultural purposes is probably no smaller now than it was ten years ago. Male indoor domestic servants number 3,721, being 632 more than in 1901; male outdoor domestic servants 23,973 (including 5,908 gamekeepers), or 5,085 more than in 1901. Female indoor domestic servants have decreased by 9,040 (6 per cent.) to 135,052, while charwomen, numbering 10,472, have increased by no fewer than 2,437, or 30·3 per cent., since 1901. These changes in the character of domestic service constitute a remarkable social phenomenon. It is only natural to find that, while horsekeepers, grooms and coachmen (other than domestic) have decreased by 2,920 to 6,437, 1,283 non-domestic motor-car drivers have sprung into existence from the void. Railway officials and servants have increased by 15 per cent. Changes in thought are reflected in the fact that ministers, clergymen and priests have declined by 228 since 1901 to 5,105. The Church of Scotland, the United Free Church and the Episcopalian Church all have fewer ministers or clergy. The Catholic Church has increased its priests by 18, and the ministers of miscellaneous denominations number 21 more. Dentists and their assistants have increased by over 30 per cent., but the increase in doctors has barely kept pace with the growth of the whole population. One married woman in every twenty-five is "occupied," and one widow in every four. The occupation tables have not in previous censuses distinguished between married and widowed. The number of persons in each occupation is also given, for the first time, for each year of age from 13 to 17 separately. This throws light on the "blind alley" problem; but, as is pointed out in the introduction to the volume, the exact year of age is frequently given inaccurately, and these figures must, therefore, be used with caution.

The average number of rooms to an inhabited house was 3·17 in 1881, 3·24 in 1891, and 3·26 in 1901. The figure for 1911 is still 3·26; but some improvement has nevertheless probably taken place, because lodgers' holdings have not in this last census been counted as separate "houses," as was previously the case. The figures of persons living in "houses" of one room and in windowless "houses" have steadily decreased since 1861, while those of persons living in houses of two, three, four and five rooms have increased. There are still 12 people living in the windowless "houses." Nearly four hundred thousand, or 8·7 per cent., of the population live in one-roomed, 40·9 per cent. in two-roomed, 21·9 in three-roomed, and 9·9 in four-roomed houses. 43·6 per cent. live more than two in a room, 21·2 per cent. more than three in a room, 8·3 per cent. more than four in a room.

The main conclusion derived by the officials from the special tables relative to Gaelic-speaking persons is that "there is a little likelihood of Gaelic becoming a dead language for many years to come." In the insular parishes the proportion of children under school age unable to speak English remains as high as it was in 1901 But the actual number of Gaelic-speakers has declined from 230,806 to 202,398.

The pages in the Report explaining the numerous different systems of official divisions of the country serve incidentally to give a very clear explanation of certain aspects of Scottish local government which are apt to be puzzling to the Englishman.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TRADE

Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1908–12. Vol. II. Cd. 6970. 4s. 1d.

Report to the Board of Trade on the Trade of the Union of South Africa (and Rhodesia) for the year 1912. By Sir R. SOTHERN HOLLAND, H.M. Trade Commissioner for South Africa. Cd. 7023. 6d.

Report to the Board of Trade on the Trade of New Zealand for the year 1912. By Mr. W. G. WICKHAM, H.M. Trade Commissioner for New Zealand. Cd. 7030. 3d.

New Draft Customs Tariff for Brazil. Cd. 7094. 1s. 3d.

Commercial. No. 3 (1913). Correspondence respecting the Withdrawal of His Majesty's Government from the Brussels Sugar Convention. Cd. 6877. 2d.

Volume II. of the Annual Statement of Trade contains Tables showing the imports from and exports to various countries for each of the years 1908 to 1912; in each case the records are those of the countries of consignment, not, as before 1908, the countries of shipment; similar information for 1904–8 was given in supplementary volumes. First come a series of abstract tables showing: (1) The consignments from each country to the United Kingdom, the exports of British and foreign merchandise to each country, and the consignments from each country retained in the United Kingdom; the last figures are approximate, as goods are not always re-exported in the year of importation. (2) The values, separately, of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom and of foreign and colonial merchandise to each country and colony. (3) The values of the imports, exports, and re-exports from or to each country, classed as food, raw materials, manufactures, and miscellaneous. (4) The total values of the imports, exports, and re-exports at each port of the United Kingdom. Detailed tables then follow giving particulars of the principal articles imported, exported, or re-exported at each of the ports of the United Kingdom, and another set showing in detail the trade of the United Kingdom with foreign countries and British possessions. Further tables show transhipments under bond, classed by kinds of goods, countries of consignment, and ports. The Customs Revenue collected at each port, the stocks in and free deliveries from bonded warehouses, and the quantities and values of free goods entered in transit on through bills of lading form the subjects of a concluding series of tables.

The Trade Commissioners appointed by the Board of Trade to act in certain colonies perform much the same functions in regard to trade that our consuls do in foreign countries. Their duties are generally to assist British traders by information and advice and to collect particulars of trade movements, public works, foreign competition, etc. Thus Mr. Wickham has travelled 7,000 miles in New Zealand making the acquaintance of local officials and familiarising himself with local questions and fashions. He sent 215 reports and a collection of foreign hardware samples to the Board of Trade, besides 131 reports for direct transmission to firms. Sir R. Sothern Holland also sent home a collection of 230 samples of foreign hardware, hollow-ware, and tools, which was exhibited—with other similar collections—in various industrial centres in the United Kingdom. This exhibition aroused very great interest. While at home in 1912 he made a tour of 13 manufacturing centres and had interviews with 187 firms. Both Commissioners comment on the fact that buyers in South Africa and New Zealand show a preference for British goods. In the period 1907–12 the British share of South African imports ranged between 56 and 59 per cent., and in 1912 was slightly over 58 per cent. Only in agricultural machinery, electrical machinery, and fencing wire are we seriously behind. The United States and Germany each have about 9 per cent. of the total imports. The Union exports exceeded the imports in 1912 by £27,645,000, but against this are to be set Government stores, £2,829,000; excess of imports of specie, £708,000; interest on public debt, £4,142,000; and mining dividends, £11,340,000—all of which, as well as dividends on other British investments in South Africa, have to be met out of the trade balance.

Mr. Wickham is unable to state the value of British goods imported into New Zealand, as foreign goods shipped from the United Kingdom are classed as British. Reference, however, to the figures given in Volume II. of the Annual Statement of Trade will show that our share of the trade is not unsatisfactory. His comments on the ways of British exporters and colonial importers make uncommonly good reading and display a vivacious style unfortunately seldom met with in official reports, whose authors are too often incurably convinced that dulness is a proof of wisdom. The British firms who cannot see the policy of sending their catalogues to the Trade Commissioner may be fairly offset by the New Zealanders who believe that for lack of initiative English firms cannot make a long-handled spade. Here is an acute remark on American competition: "It must be remembered that the route across America is becoming more and more a highway to Europe. Firms going home to get agencies are captured on the way across and are impressed by the scale of manufacture, the hustle, and the big talk, and arrive home with their mouths full and little appetite left."

Cd. 7094 contains a translation of the new draft customs tariff for Brazil, with a comparison of the proposed and existing rates of duty. The tariff has still to be revised, and is not expected to become law during the current year—little wonder, since it contains 1,054 classes, some of them with dozens of items with different rates. British exports to Brazil in 1912 were valued at £12,658,000, over £6,295,000 being in cotton manufactures, machinery, tools, hardware, cutlery, and other iron and steel goods. There does not appear to be many important changes in the rates affecting British products. More influence will be effected by the new regulations that the value of goods is to be converted into milreis at the rate of 16d. to the milreis, instead of 12d., and that duties shall be payable 40 per cent. in gold and 60 per cent. in paper, instead of 50 per cent. in gold in the case of 68 classes of articles and 35 per cent. for the remainder; a gold milreis equals 2s. 3d.

A short White Paper announces the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Sugar Convention as from September 1st, 1913, and also the intention of the British Government not to depart from the fundamental principle of the Convention by granting either bounties on the exportation of sugar or a preference to colonial sugar, or by subjecting to a different rate beet sugar and cane sugar; six months' notice of a change of fiscal policy was to be given. Compulsory refining in bond could not be continued after the above date, and in future certificates of origin could only be granted to refiners who exercised their option of remaining under the existing system. The Permanent Commission, at its meeting in May, 1913, declared that the States remaining in the Sugar Union "will not modify in an unfavourable manner the system applied by them to English sugar and sugared products so long as the British Government do not, on their part, introduce into their existing fiscal system with regard to sugar any modification prejudicial to their interests." The certificates of origin to be employed by the British Government after September 1st, 1913, for the exportation of sugar refined in the United Kingdom are to declare that the goods are the product of a refinery conducted under Customs control and are made from raw sugar originating from States of the Sugar Union or from non-bounty-giving countries.

THE TRADE OF INDIA

Review of the Trade of India in 1912–13. Cd. 6960. 1s. 1d.

The immense and unchecked expansion of Indian trade is illustrated by the figures on almost every page of this Blue Book—which, by the by, though numbered as a Parliamentary Paper, has been both prepared and published in India. The year 1912 was one of unprecedented and world-wide commercial activity, in which India shared. Her grand total of exports and imports was £310·11 millions, as against £286·8 millions in 1911–12, an increase of 8·1 per cent. Records were beaten in one department after another. The trade of India with the United Kingdom rose from £97·69 to £108·8 millions, the largest contribution to the imports being, of course, articles wholly or partially manufactured. Cotton goods still head the list. On the average of the last three years they have represented 47·6 per cent. of the total value of manufactured articles imported, and in 1912 the activity of the trade was altogether unprecedented. In exports the year was a record, for the fourth year in succession. Rice held the premier place, formerly occupied by raw cotton. Jute, both raw and manufactured, achieved a record. It represents 26·2 per cent. of the total value of raw materials exported. In the year under review it enjoyed an unexampled boom. The world's annual demand for jute is now estimated variously at from 8½ to 9 million bales of 400 lbs.; and India—that is, Bengal—is virtually the sole producer of the fibre. During the year the United Kingdom took 340,586 tons, a decline of 5,176 tons from 1911–12; while Germany's share (180,149 tons) showed an increase of 9,461 tons. During the year the United Kingdom imported more wheat from India than from any other single source. Tea is another item which shows continual expansion—the tea season of the year under review surpassed all others. The foregoing are a few only of the facts brought out in the report, which for the most part is a bald catalogue of enlarging results, free from generalisations. It is rather curious to find in a document issuing from the statisticians of Simla the unqualified statement that "rice is the staple food of most of India."

THE CONSULAR REPORTS

Diplomatic and Consular Reports: Annual Series. (For reference numbers see Classified List.)

The Moscow consul reports that 1912 was marked by "a further large increase in German goods and by a substantial fall in British goods," the latter being due to "increasing competition and to the stagnancy of British enterprise in Russia." The coal strike caused large quantities of Silesian coal to be exported from Stettin in place of British coal, and the price of the latter will have to be reduced before it can regain its former footing. The importance of the British coal trade in the Mediterranean basin is again made clear, and British cottons appear to penetrate at least as far as the British mercantile fleet. Roumania, however, makes a bad showing, partly because British merchants trust to local agents, while the German and Austro-Hungarian manufacturers, in addition to the advantage of proximity, have their own representatives. The best qualities of cotton and wool goods come from Britain, but our share is diminishing while the shares of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy are increasing The consul at Corfu warns merchants not to send goods to the Ionian Islands "unless payment is guaranteed by one of the banks, or by some responsible person against bill of lading." From Egypt comes the same advice—find out "houses of reputable standing with a solid basis," and give them three to six months' credit; consult the British Chamber of Commerce at Alexandria; send out travellers from time to time—"the expense of this will often be repaid sevenfold by the increase of business, but it is extraordinary how British firms shrink from this outlay as compared with German houses." Neglect of such simple precautions leads to loss of money, to unwillingness to adventure, and ultimately to loss of existing trade. No traveller representing a British firm called at the Stettin consulate in 1912, although one experienced traveller for a British firm booked an unexpected number of orders in 1911. British goods are usually purchased through Berlin agents, but there is an increasing demand for superior British products, especially woollen suitings, felt hats, groceries, tea, whiskey, and china. In Trebizond the Austro-Hungarian and Italian manufacturers give from 3 to 6 months' credit in cotton goods, while Belgians accord similar facilities for payment of woollen goods, in which they are gaining ground rapidly. Cheap and showy articles, quotations in French and c.i.f., and easy credit are the reasons why Continental exporters are gaining over British in Asia Minor. It is also to be noted that German competition in the grain market of Basra (whence £1,865,000 worth of cereals was exported in 1912) is very keenly felt. Switzerland also demands more British travellers and greater stocks of British goods kept in the country.

The textile industries of France reflect the effects of fashion, where *la crise de l'aunage* produced by the hobble skirt has seriously injured the silk and lace trades; only the "immense popularity of silk for every kind of use" to some extent neutralised the decrease in consumption caused by skimpy widths. The lace trade of Calais was not so fortunate, and the unfulfilled expectation of a transition to loosely draped styles of dress requiring lace and to lace-trimmed underwear involved manufacturers in much loss in fruitlessly trying to introduce novelties in designs. The reports of Calais and Rouen both show that high protection is a serious hindrance to the textile industries, and the report of Lyons proves that the cheap silk of China is slowly killing out the native silk-growing of France.

Egypt, Roumania, Greece, Turkey, and Italy all suffered from the effects of war, and Portugal from revolution. High freights and the British coal strike hampered the Bilbao iron ore trade; the exports of ore to Britain from North Spain are declining as the southern mines develop. An Anglo-Canadian company, with a capital of £10,000,000, has obtained a monopoly of the electric supply of Barcelona and the neighbourhood, and is expected to develop greatly the prosperity of the district, besides benefiting British firms by orders which already amount to £500,000. 59,661 persons emigrated from Portugal in 1911, chiefly for Brazil, or about 52 per cent. more than the average of the preceding three years; now whole families, instead of grown-up men, are leaving the country. From the report on the Swedish Budget we glean the interesting fact that 20 per cent. of the State revenue is obtained from State enterprises, including railways, waterfalls, and power stations. The Italian reports emphasise the importance of co-operative societies and of electric power from waterfalls. The Netherlands report is a clear and succinct summary, bringing out the great developments possible from the canalisation of rivers and the draining of the Zuider Zee. In Sicily the Compulsory Sicilian Sulphur Combine, instituted, in 1906, by State intervention in a trade crisis, showed a net profit of £268,000 and has abolished the former excess of production. On the other hand the Privileged Company for the Protection of Currant Growers and Traders, which has absolutely controlled the currant trade of Greece since 1905, has not succeeded in reducing production and the relations between growers and the company have been disturbed, to the hindrance of trade; the details in the Corfu report will repay study. Greece makes only £400,000 a year out of tourists. Austria suffered severely from the Balkan war, and the losses endured by the business world in 1912 are estimated at about £23,500,000. The report (No. 5162) on the finances of Italy shows that the cost of the war with Turkey and other consequent expenditure will be about £30,000,000, of which about £22,000,000 will be paid off by 1920. This is a serious burden on industry, as also are the indirect taxes amounting to about £23,000,000 in 1912–13. Wealth, nevertheless, appears to be accumulating, and in October, 1912, the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank amounted to £75,260,000, and in private banks to £103,160,000. The State monopolies of tobacco, salt, and quinine are estimated to produce a revenue of £15,917,000 in 1912–13, and the State lottery £3,920,000. The export trade of the United Kingdom and of France to Spain each fell off about 17 per cent. in 1911 compared with 1910, but the report (No. 5179) does not sufficiently explain the reasons. The smaller German and American exports rose by 11 or 12 per cent.

Opening the Mannheim report, one seems to have happened on a happy valley of industry where "the normal relations maintained between supply and demand, and as yet absence of exaggeration in prices, is a testimony to the soundness of economic life." Alas, a few pages farther on we find that "on account of the increased high cost of living, the middle and working classes are continually obliged to curtail expenses, and that part of their wages set apart for extras is especially lessened." The Bavarian report gives interesting figures as to the rise in the price of meat, and as to the house famine in towns. More urgently the same cry comes from across the Atlantic, where the industrial sky was clouded with the fear of inflated prices and over-speculation with its "spasms and fluctuations." Only on the North Pacific Coast, which relies on natural products, was "the present financial position . . . . one that cannot fail to meet with approval." The manufactures of Chicago during 1912 amounted to £406,665,000 as compared with £373,440,000 in 1911; and the wholesale trade to £455,132,000 in 1912 against £417,602,000 in 1911. But "whilst it is admitted that wages on the whole have notably risen during the last few years, it is contended that the cost of living has increased even faster, and that wages have failed to keep pace with enhanced prices of food." Further demonstration is given in the New York report that "the average working man cannot to-day with the results of a day's labour buy as much food as he could buy in 1899." Taking fifteen of the principal articles of food, the cost of living was 58·6 per cent. higher in June, 1912, than in the average of the period 1890–99, "or that the purchasing power of a dollar had been reduced to about 63 cents." On the other hand wages only rose 1·6 per cent. between 1909 and 1912. The New York report also contains very interesting particulars respecting labour matters, especially the Industrial Workers of the World and the Cloak, Suit, and Skirt Manufacturers' Protection Association (which made a treaty of peace between employers and employees on the basis of a minimum wage, a fifty-hour week, a board of grievances, a board of arbitration, a joint board of sanitary control, and the preferential union shop). Other important topics are the control of trusts, rates of freight, transit facilities, and decline of farming. A table of comparative retail prices of food in 1911 and 1912 will also be found to be of much interest, while the Chicago report gives prices of cattle, sheep, and pigs for 1910–12. The detailed account of Chicago industries and trade will also be found very instructive, and in fact the two consular reports for Chicago and New York ought to be on every student's and every reformer's bookshelf. At Tacoma, in Washington, the cost of living has risen 40 per cent. since 1897.

Boston mourns over the missed opportunity of doing a good trade with Canada had one reciprocity treaty gone through, and over an increased flight to the towns partly offset by an increased use of machinery on farms. On the other hand, despite a tariff preference of 10 per cent., the British boot is beaten in Canada by the American boots with their more attractive styles. The consul at Baltimore again presses "the necessity for the establishment of a first-class trade line of British passenger and cargo steamers between this port and the United Kingdom," and seeing that Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Pittsburg are nearer to Baltimore than to New York, and that the whole district from New Orleans to Philadelphia is to be tapped, the conservatism of British shipowners seems to require explanation.

UNIVERSITIES AND STATE SUPPORT

Board of Education: Reports for the year 1911–12 from those Universities and University Colleges in Great Britain which are in receipt of Grant from the Board of Education, 1913. Vol. I. Cd. 7008. 2s. Vol. II. Cd. 7009. 1s. 10d.

The scope of these volumes is indicated by the title. Cambridge, Oxford (except the Department of Engineering), Glasgow, and Edinburgh are excluded. The universities in question during 1911–12 received gifts and bequests of one sort or another amounting in the aggregate to over half a million pounds. During the current financial year nearly £45,000 will be distributed by the Board of Education in aid of technological and professional work in universities in England and Wales, and of this sum about £21,000 will be allotted to university institutions which do not participate in the Exchequer grant. The technological grant has grown very rapidly, for in 1909–10 it amounted only to £14,000. The total Exchequer grants given to English and Welsh university institutions, which twenty years ago (1891–2) were £28,500, have risen to £201,000 in 1911–12 (of which £31,000 is distributed to the Welsh university colleges). The returns of income of the universities and university colleges during 1911–12 may be best summarised as follows:

	England.		Wales.	
	£	Percentage of Total Income	£	Percentage of Total Income
(1) Fees	180,371	29·0	18,117	28·2
(2) Endowments	85,435	13·7	4,191	6·5
(3) Donations and Subscriptions	22,437	3·6	1,911	3·0
(4) Annual grants from local authorities	95,875	15·4	5,283	8·2
(5) Parliamentary grants ...	215,003	34·5	33,805	52·7
(6) Contributions from hospitals and other institutions for services rendered	659	0·1	—	—
(7) Other income	22,694	3·7	890	1·4
Total	622,477	100·0	64,199	100·0

It will be observed that almost exactly one-half of the income of the English universities and three-fifths of the income of the universities of Wales is derived from public sources, *i.e.*, Parliamentary or local grants. There is a great deal of diversity in the source of income of the different institutions: *e.g.*, endowments form 25·3 per cent. of the income of Manchester University, but only 1·4 per cent. of the income of King's College (London). Donations and subscriptions account for 12·1 per cent. in the East London College, and only 0·7 per cent. in Bristol University. Local authorities vary also in the degree of their generosity. In Leeds University 22·0 per cent. of the income is derived from this source, but only 7·5 per cent. in Manchester. The returns of expenditure show that administration expenses total £64,528 (or 10·7 per cent. of the total expenditure) in England, and £8,104 (or 12·7 per cent.) in Wales; maintenance charges were responsible for an expenditure of £63,714 (10·6 per cent.) in England and £4,659 (or 7·3 per cent.) in Wales. Salaries and other educational expenditure form the largest item, amounting to £400,001 (66·4 per cent.) and £46,399 (72·6 per cent.) in England and Wales respectively. The total expenditure of the English institutions was £602,021, and of the Welsh colleges £63,869. In these institutions there were in 1911–12, in both countries taken together, 9,204 full-time students, of whom 6,116 were degree students; there were 3,638 part-time day students, and 7,295 part-time evening students. It is satisfactory to note that the number of matriculation students was only 238. Particulars of the London medical schools are given separately. Their total income in 1911–12 was £59,570 (fees accounting for 57·6 per cent.), and their total expenditure £52,504. There were 1,184 full-time and 726 part-time students.

An interesting point is the age of the university students on admission. In England 4·6 per cent. and in Wales 3·4 per cent. were under 17. This figure shows an unfortunate tendency to increase. The percentage admitted between 17 and 18 was 11·9 per cent. (England) and 8·8 per cent. (Wales); between 18 and 19, 27·6 per cent. (England) and 33·7 per cent. (Wales); those over 19 amounted to 55·9 per cent. and 54·1 per cent. respectively. The introductory report shows a most commendable attitude on the part of the Board of Education towards university institutions. A large measure of State assistance is absolutely necessary; equally necessary is freedom from petty restrictions. If the practice of the Board is in keeping with the spirit of the report, no fears need be entertained for the future. The report gives details for each institution not only of fees, number of students, income and expenditure, but of the constitution, accommodation, degrees and diplomas, extension work, etc., and is therefore valuable as a statement of the extent and present position of university education so far as State-aided institutions are concerned.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales: Tabular Statement of Staffing per 1,000 Scholars in average attendance in areas of Local Education Authorities, with additional columns giving the expenditure on teachers per unit of average attendance, and the average salaries of certificated and uncertificated teachers (men and women separately). Cd. 6933. 6d.

The number of children in average attendance in the public elementary schools of England and Wales was 5,240,616 in 1904–5, and 5,346,373 in 1911–12, whilst the total number of teachers of all grades has increased from 164,795 in 1904–5 to 168,472, so that the number of children per teacher (32) has not altered in the meantime. It is satisfactory to note, however, that between the two years 1904–5 and 1911–12 the number of certificated teachers has risen from 78,587 to 103,268, the average number of scholars per certificated teacher having declined from 67 to 52. Certificated masters and mistresses in 1911–12 formed 63·23 per cent. of the total number of adult teachers as against 56·14 per cent. in 1904–5; the percentage of uncertificated teachers was 30·21 in the former year and 27·17 in the latter; the number of "supplementary teachers," it is satisfactory to note, has declined from 13·57 per cent. to 8·47 per cent. between the two years under review. In England the number of teachers (excluding pupil teachers) per 1,000 scholars in average attendance has increased from 26·5 (in 1904–5) to 30·3 (in 1911–12). The corresponding figures for Wales are 29·3 to 34·2. The following table summarises the returns given, and shows the total amount spent in teachers' salaries divided by the total number of children in average attendance. The amounts stated are approximate.

EXPENDITURE ON TEACHERS' SALARIES PER UNIT OF AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

	England.		Wales.	
	1904–5	1911–12	1904–5	1911–12
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Counties	42 7	53 1	43 11	52 10
London	63 3	80 10	—	—
Non-County Boroughs ...	44 11	55 5	42 2	50 6
Urban Districts	48 2	60 10	51 1	61 5
County Boroughs ...	47 1	56 11	49 4	59 8
Average	47 4	58 8	46 3	55 8

The actual average of salaries to teachers has shown a fairly steady increase during the past seven or eight years, except in the case of uncertificated male teachers. They may be summarised as follows:

	England.		Wales.	
	1904–5	1911–12	1904–5	1911–12
	£	£	£	£
Certificated teachers (men)	137·9	147·5	125·2	131·3
,, ,, (women)	93·0	101·3	88·3	96·5
Uncertificated ,, (men)	66·6	66·4	61·9	60·4
,, ,, (women)	52·2	55·5	49·8	52·4

There is a wide divergence between the salaries paid in different parts of the country. For example, in 1911–12 the average salary paid to certificated men teachers in the Welsh county areas was £122·3; in the London County Council area it was £177·7. There are similar differences in the salaries of other grades of teachers. The return gives particulars of staffing and teachers' salaries for each Education authority separately, and should be of great value to all concerned in education.

SECONDARY SCHOOL GRANTS

Abstracts of Accounts of Secondary Schools on the Grant List in England. 1911–12. Cd. 7043. 4d.

For the first time we have a correct account of the receipts and expenditure of all the Secondary Schools in England on the Grant List for 1911–12. For each individual school there is shown the number of pupils, boarders, and pupil-teachers; the receipts from the Board of Education, Local Authorities, fees, endowments, etc.; the receipts expressed in percentages and per pupil; the expenditure on salaries, pensions, maintenance of premises, administration, and other expenses; and the expenditure per pupil. These amounts are unfortunately not totalled for England as a whole. Receipts and payments per pupil may be summarised as follows: 73 Council Schools for Boys: Grants from Board of Education, £3 18s.; grants from Local Authorities, £5 11s.; fees, £5 15s.; endowments, etc., 7s.; total receipts, £15 11s.; total payments, £15 10s., of which £11 13s. for salaries and pensions. 232 Foundation Schools for Boys: Grants from Board of Education, £4 1s.; grants from Local Authorities, £2 14s.; fees, £7 9s.; endowments, etc., £3 6s.; total receipts, £17 9s.; total payments, £17 12s., of which £13 2s. for salaries and pensions. 139 Council Schools for Girls: Grants from Board of Education, £4 7s.; grants from Local Authorities, £4 2s.; fees, £5 8s.; endowments, etc., 2s.; total receipts, £13 19s.; total payments, £14 10s., of which £10 8s. for salaries and pensions. 76 Foundation Schools for Girls: Grants from Board of Education, £3 13s.; grants from Local Authorities, £1 12s.; fees, £7 14s.; endowments, £1 12s.; total receipts, £14 12s.; total expenditure, £14 8s., of which £10 10s. on salaries and pensions.

NEW SCHOOL REGULATIONS

Board of Education (Welsh Department). Regulations for the Preliminary Education of Elementary School Teachers. Cd. 7005. 2½d.

Board of Education. Regulations providing for Grants in Aid of Local Education Authorities in England and Wales exercising powers under the Education (Choice of Employment) Act, 1910. Cd. 7076. ½d.

The number of bursars and pupil-teachers in their first year in Wales and Monmouthshire having decreased from 940 in 1907–8 to 609 in 1912–13, the Board of Education concludes that "the position with regard to the supply of teachers, not only for the immediate future, but also for a good many years to come, is extremely serious." Fresh regulations to meet this situation of "exceptional difficulty" and to increase the supply of teachers have been drawn up providing for increased maintenance allowances for intending bursars in secondary schools, for strengthening the pupil-teacher system in rural districts, and giving greater elasticity in training.

When the Board is satisfied that a local education authority is efficiently exercising powers under the Choice of Employment Act they may contribute half the authority's recognised expenditure on the salaries of officers employed. The maximum recognised annual expenditure on salaries varies from £50 in areas where there are fewer than 500 children between the ages of 12 and 13 on the registers of the public elementary schools to £400 where there are 5,000 children and over.

IRISH ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Seventy-eighth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, 1911–12. Cd. 6986. 5d.

According to this exceedingly belated report, the elementary education of the 700,000 children attending the national Irish schools cost about £1,700,000 in the year 1911–12. The average daily attendance increased from 65·1 in 1902 to 72·5 in 1911; in other words, less than three-quarters of the children on the rolls actually go to school each day. The attendance was nearly 5 per cent. higher in the districts possessing school attendance committees than in those without them. In 1880 only 31·0 per cent. of the teachers were trained; but the percentage is now 68·5. It is interesting to note that nearly 40,000 boys aged over seven are being educated in schools which are under women teachers exclusively. Only 1 per cent. of the children attend schools where Roman Catholic and Protestant teachers are employed conjointly. The Commissioners continue to pursue their policy of amalgamating small schools, and preventing the establishment of rival schools. The independent position of the Commissioners is illustrated by the freedom with which the Government is criticised in the report, particularly with regard to the failure to comply with requests for money.

MINES AND QUARRIES

Mines and Quarries: Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for Districts 1 to 8 for the year 1912.

Mines and Quarries: General Report, with Statistics, for 1912, by the Chief Inspector of Mines. Cd. 6983–1–VIII. 5½d. to 1s. 6d.

For the purposes of the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, and those other Acts dealing with metalliferous mines and with quarries, the United Kingdom is divided into eight inspection districts, Ireland being treated, oddly enough, as a suburb of Manchester. The inspector in charge of every district presents an annual report, and these eight reports are all drawn up on exactly the same plan—an excellent arrangement which the Home Office might well induce the Police to adopt in drawing up the reports of the five police districts. Finally, when the eight reports have been received, the Home Office uses them, together with other material it has itself collected, to produce four more reports. The first of these, giving District Statistics, we have received. The others, dealing respectively with Labour, Output, and Colonial and Foreign Statistics, are to follow.

The total number of persons employed last year in and about all the mines of the United Kingdom was 1,117,148, of whom 1,089,090 worked at the 3,265 mines under the Coal Mines Act. Of these 878,759 worked underground, while the surface workers included 6,486 females. These, by the way, consisted of 5,557 above 16, 899 between 14 and 16, and 30 under 14. Scotland employs nearly half the total number of females, and is followed by the Liverpool and North Wales District. The number of boys under 16 employed below ground totalled 50,447.

The total output of coal for the year was 262,684,127 tons, a decrease being indicated in every district (with the exception of South Wales) on account of the Coal Strike. It is interesting, however, to note that, although the strike lasted 6 weeks, the gross decrease of output barely exceeded 3 per cent. The metalliferous mines yielded their usual miscellany, of which iron ore (1,675,868 tons, as against 1,823,795 tons in 1911) is the most prominent component. Other minerals dug up were 25,383 tons of lead ore, 38,055 tons of barium (compounds), 1,912 tons of copper ore and precipitate, 6,822 tons of tin ore (dressed), 17,704 tons of zinc ore, and 170 tons of gold ore.

The fatal accidents at coal mines caused 1,276 deaths, with 43 more deaths at other mines and 75 at quarries. The death-rate from accidents is the lowest on record, as a further result of the Coal Strike. The non-fatal accidents, *i.e.*, those involving at least a week's absence from work, affected 150,652 persons in coal mines. We have, therefore, the appalling fact before us that one in every seven of those employed in coal mines is either killed or injured every year.

The inspectors' reports tell us little about wages. It appears, however, that a general advance of 5 per cent. took place in October for the North and East Lancashire and the Irish miners (the cash value is not stated), and that the wages of the Scottish miners were raised during the year from 4s. to 4s. 9d. per day.

Beyond the facts of output, persons employed, and accidents, of which we have attempted to give a bare summary, every inspector's report gives lists of the fatal accidents and deaths occurring in his district, with particulars of the circumstances; a list of prosecutions both by inspectors and owners, and a list of plans of mines abandoned during the year.

THE PREVENTION OF EXPLOSIONS

Thirty-seventh Report of H.M. Inspectors of Explosives, being for the year 1912. Cd. 6958. 1s. 6d.

The Chief Inspector and four Inspectors of Explosives enforce the provisions of the various Acts regulating the manufacture, storage, packing, and conveyance of explosives. They also supervise the use of explosives in mines, and the storage of petroleum, besides endeavouring to keep local authorities up to the mark in regard to their duties under the Explosives Acts. Some of the local authorities are evidently very negligent. The inspectors visit a good many of them every year and catalogue them under the headings "very good," "good," "fair," "indifferent," "bad," and "very bad," according to the degrees of efficiency attained. The frequent changes of the officers appointed by the local authorities to carry out the Acts is one of the causes which militates against efficient administration. During last year 35 persons were killed and 429 injured by explosions, the averages for the last ten years being 53 and 420. But over 92 per cent. of the accidents "occurred in the use of explosives under miscellaneous conditions to which the controlling provisions of the Act do not apply." The record of 456 accidents which occurred during 1912 contains some marvellous revelations of what boys and others will do.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Forty-second Annual Report of the Local Government Board: Part II. Housing and Town Planning. Cd. 6981. 7d.

Finding fault with the President of the Local Government Board has of late years become second nature to Progressives, but we must give Mr. Burns his due, and as a housing administrator he has made history. For years past we have complained that the L.G.B., unlike the Board of Education, never initiated reform. The Housing Acts were on the statute book, and housing was notoriously bad and deficient, but all the central authority did was to veto some proposals for reform and reluctantly consent to others. Some twelve months ago a change occurred. Mr. Burns set his face against new legislation, but he determined to work the old, and this report is the record of his achievements. Housing for the first time has a Blue Book all to itself, which confirms the impression gathered elsewhere that a new spirit is moving in Whitehall. For example, the L.G.B. has subscribed to a press-cutting agency—surely a fresh departure for a Government department. The reports of medical officers of health are carefully examined, and the Board writes repeated letters to local authorities where housing is reported to be deficient. When Wakefield applied to be constituted a county borough, Mr. Burns made it a condition of his consent that 100 houses should be built without delay! Urban housing loans have greatly increased since 1910, though they are not quite up to the level of 1901; rural housing loans, hitherto insignificant, in 1913 broke all records at £59,577, and the total of urban and rural loans, £403,158, is also a record, and has only once been approached since 1890.

In another respect the year was memorable. Powers to purchase land compulsorily for building have existed since 1890, but they have never been exercised till the present year, when the Rural District Council of Erpington obtained sanction for a scheme to buy 12¼ acres at £31 an acre in order to build six cottages. Compulsory orders have also been made in favour of Liverpool and Weymouth. Authority has been given for the erection of eight shops. Information is supplied on one point of much interest to rural housers. In respect of schemes since the Act of 1909 just about one half are made chargeable on the parishes concerned and the other half on the district. Details are given of several local inquiries held in response to appeals from four inhabitant householders, and useful advice is offered as to the proper way of getting up such cases. Of course, all this is only a beginning, and the report admits that "the progress in building new houses has not been so great as we could wish." Still the spirit of the L.G.B. appears to be willing, though the law is weak.

Town planning is making a start. To March, 1913, the preparation of 33 schemes by 27 local authorities had been sanctioned. Birmingham has the honour of leading the way with two schemes, closely followed by Ruislip and Rochdale. Four rural districts are making use of the Act.

LICENSING STATISTICS

Statistics of the Operation and Administration of the Laws relating to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquor in England and Wales for the year 1912. Cd. 7040. 2s. 5d.

This massive volume is an example of misdirected energy. Out of 223 pages, 209 consist of figures, the great bulk of which must be useless to any human being. Many of them relate to the proportion of convictions for drunkenness in petty sessional districts, worked out in percentages in relation to on and off licences and clubs, in proportion to area and population. Since the text explains that the number of convictions in any area is a function of five variables, "etc.," and depends quite as much on the standard of the police as on the habits of the people, the Home Office, in effect, proclaims the futility of its own production.

The introduction contains some matter of interest. Convictions for drunkenness declined from 60·95 per 10,000 population in 1905, the earliest year reported, to 45·25 in 1910, and then rose to 47·71 in 1911, and 49·97 in 1912. This coincides with variations in the consumption of spirits, which, after falling steadily for a long time, had a big drop in the "budget year" 1909–10, when drunkenness, measured by convictions, declined by 10 per cent. Thence consumption of spirits began to recover, and drunkenness, after a short interval, followed suit. The amount of drunkenness varies greatly with the season, but not apparently with the weather. Little difference can be traced between the very hot summer of 1911 and the very cold summer of 1912. One of the commonest assertions of temperance reformers is that drunkenness among women is increasing. Dr. Shadwell disposed of the allegation by historical methods some years ago, and statistics for recent years confirm his conclusion. Convictions of females were 20·42 per cent. of the total in 1905 and the proportion declined in nearly every year to 18·93 per cent. in 1911 and 19·03 in 1912.

The greater part of the book is occupied in showing the steady and substantial reduction in the number of licensed premises, from 103,341 in 1895 to 89,849 in 1912, the considerable, but far from equivalent, increase in the number of clubs, and the irrelevance of these numbers to the amount of drunkenness. The usual tables are given, showing that there is least drunkenness in counties with most public-houses and most drunkenness where public-houses are least numerous. It is not suggested that the two are related as cause and effect, but the advocates of local option must find these figures hard to explain away.

MOTOR TRAFFIC

Report from the Select Committee on Motor Traffic; together with the Proceedings of the Committee. H. of C. 278. 9d.

Evidence from the Select Committee on Motor Traffic. H. of C. 278. Vol. I., 3s. 11d.; Vol. II., 5s. 3d.

Motor 'bus accidents in London have become a byword. The number of fatal street accidents of all kinds in the Metropolitan Police area has increased from 155 in 1904 to 537 in 1912, while the number of injured has been doubled, and is now over 20,000 per annum. 34 per cent. of the fatal injuries occur to children, three-quarters of whom are boys. The percentage of accidents to population increased from ·177 in 1904 to ·303 in 1912. In other words, one in every three hundred persons now experiences an accident in the streets in the course of each year. In spite of the rapid decrease of horse-drawn vehicles, the number of fatalities caused by them has not varied in the last three years. Meanwhile the number of fatal motor 'bus accidents increased from 35 in 1907 to 70 in 1910 and 182 in 1912. The exhaustive inquiry of the Select Committee can leave no doubt that the motor 'bus is far more dangerous than the tramcar. The Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police tried to persuade the Committee that the existence of tramways in a street rendered accidents by power-driven vehicles of all kinds more likely. But the Committee declined to accept this suggestion after testing it by comparison with the facts. Neither narrow streets nor defective lighting seem to be important contributory causes of accidents. On the other hand, the motor 'bus companies did not succeed in convincing the Committee that the long hours sometimes worked by their drivers did not increase the likelihood of accidents. The Committee were strongly of opinion that the confusion of traffic authorities in London—which include the Board of Trade, Home Office, Local Government Board, the Commissioner of Police, County Council, City Council, Borough Councils, and the local authorities of Greater London—had prevented effective regulation. The extraordinary fact was disclosed that the technical adviser to the Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police is also technical adviser to the motor 'bus companies. The Committee rightly criticised this arrangement, and it is to be hoped that it has now ceased to prevail.

The chief recommendations of the Committee were as follows: (1) The concentration of all powers with regard to Metropolitan traffic matters, which are now in the hands of various central authorities, upon a new Traffic Branch of the Board of Trade; (2) the abolition of the absolute veto of the borough councils upon tramway schemes; (3) the conferring of by-law-making powers upon county councils in the Metropolitan area—which will have the effect of remedying to some extent the complete lack of co-ordination between these bodies and the Metropolitan Police; (4) control of the licensing, routes, time tables, and number of motor 'buses and cabs by the county councils, subject to appeal to the Board of Trade; (5) special speed limits for motor omnibuses in dangerous places.

The report is not only of importance in relation to the subject with which it primarily deals; it should serve to bring home to the citizens of London the anomalies of London government in a more concrete manner than they have ever been conceived before. Anyone who scans the volumes of evidence must be impressed by the fact that the physical difficulties of controlling and directing to the best use new forms of transit are relatively unimportant in comparison with the artificial difficulties of the problem created by the multiplicity of authorities and the almost inevitable jealousies arising between them. Whatever may be the arguments in favour of maintaining a metropolitan police force in the hands of the central Government, it is certain that the power of the Chief Commissioner to dictate to the elected representatives of London in purely local government matters is an intolerable anomaly in a democratic community.

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LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS

The Annual Local Taxation Returns (Scotland) for the year 1911-12. H. of C. 181. 2s. 9d.

The Annual Local Taxation Returns, 1911–12. Part I. H. of C. 120. 9½d.

Most of the Scottish accounts relate to the year ended May 15th, 1912. The total of ordinary receipts of local authorities in Scotland in 1911–12 was £17,548,856 and the total of ordinary expenditure £17,412,655. Of the receipts 43·6 per cent. were derived from assessments (including water assessment, £664,085), 17·0 per cent. from imperial subventions and payments, 34·9 per cent. from revenue-producing undertakings, and 4·5 per cent. from miscellaneous sources. Assessments by burghal authorities (burghs, harbours, and ports) amounted to £3,289,304, by landward authorities (county councils and district fishery boards) to £1,271,240, and by parochial authorities (chiefly for poor law and education) to £3,092,769. "Burghal rates fall chiefly on occupiers; the greater portion of the landward rates, levied by County Councils and District Fishery Boards, falls on owners; and, with the exception of the Heritors' assessments (for ecclesiastical purposes), which are entirely borne by owners, the parochial rates are imposed one-half on owners and one-half—under deduction of the Agricultural Rates Grant—on occupiers." The total amount of assessments collected in respect of ownership was £3,411,484, and, in respect of occupancy, £4,241,829. In 1893–94 the average rate of assessment per £ of gross rental was 2s. 11·6d., or 17s. 7·2d. per head of estimated population; in 1911–12 it was 4s. 7·7d., or 32s. 3·6d.

Imperial subventions have risen from 7s. 8·2d. per head of estimated population in 1893–94 to 12s. 6·9d. in 1911–12, and in the latter year they aggregated £2,979,138, of which £2,469,633 was in aid of specified services, the remainder (including the Agricultural Rates Grant, Equivalent Grant, etc.) being in respect of services generally. Education absorbed £2,000,939, police and prosecutions £193,758, and poor relief £135,899. The receipts from revenue-producing undertakings in 1911–12 aggregated £6,130,580—*i.e.*, gas supply (exclusive of public lighting), £2,072,453; electricity supply (exclusive of public lighting), £659,952; tramways, £1,375,236; water supply by meter, £455,195; harbours and ports, £1,220,408; miscellaneous, £347,336. Miscellaneous receipts totalled £785,825, of which £147,401 came from the common good (heritable and other properties vested in the town councils) and £158,108 from education (sale of books, fees, etc.). Capital receipts in 1911–12 amounted to £2,483,375.

The ordinary expenditure of £17,412,655 included: Revenue-producing undertakings, £6,786,471; common good, £199,764; poor relief, £1,708,804; education, £3,869,933; sanitation, £1,498,646; roads, £1,305,003; watching and kindred services, £747,261; other services, £1,296,723. Out of the capital expenditure of £2,352,147 the sum of £1,270,543 was spent on revenue-producing undertakings and £476,982 on education. The total indebtedness of local authorities at the close of the financial year 1911–12 was £66,252,322, of which £43,738,961 was in respect of revenue-producing undertakings and £6,648,030 in respect of education. The annual debt charge was £4,245,130.

Tables appended to the report give particulars of the income and expenditure of each of the local authorities in Scotland.

The English returns give details of the poor law valuation of England and Wales (including London), and of the accounts of the overseers of the poor, boards of guardians, and managers of poor law districts and joint committees in districts out of London. Particulars are given for each poor law union, and valuation totals are given for each county borough, for each county, and for the boroughs, other urban districts, and rural districts within each county.

The gross estimated rental of England and Wales has risen from £263,037,367 in 1908 to £275,495,953 in 1912, and the assessable value (after making certain deductions and allowing for the Agricultural Rates Act) rose from £200,930,797 to £209,068,688. In 1912 the gross rental of London was £54,886,213; of the county boroughs, £72,613,769; of other boroughs, £28,936,578; of other urban districts, £51,755,669; the total for all urban areas was £208,192,229, and for rural areas £67,303,724.

The total receipts of overseers (excluding London) in 1911–12 were £30,229,651, of which £30,126,231 was raised from poor rates. In rural parishes the rates averaged 4s. 2¾d. in the £ on the total assessable value, and in all extra-metropolitan urban parishes 3s. 7¾d. The overseers paid over to county councils and other authorities £21,308,253 and expended on their own purposes £736,828. The receipts of the boards of guardians consisted of £8,352,566 from poor rates and £2,882,961 from other grants. The total expenditure on poor relief in England and Wales (excluding London) in 1911–12 was £10,603,803—viz., indoor relief, £5,324,690; outdoor relief, £2,659,080; pauper lunatics, £2,114,905; other, £749,727; less produce of workhouse farms, etc., £244,599; repayments, £152,092.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Statistics. Acreage and Live Stock Returns of Scotland. Cd. 6966. 5d.

Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1912. Cd. 6987. 9d.

For the first time the agricultural statistics of Scotland are issued in a separate publication, and the Superintendent of Statistics takes occasion to give a general account of the present state of agriculture and some comparisons with the past. Scotland has a land area of some 19 million acres. Of this total, 3,325,027 acres are arable, 1,496,307 permanent grass, and 8,919,629 mountain and heath used for grazing. Thus, one-fourth is under cultivation and nearly one-half is used as rough grazings. The number of agricultural holdings in Scotland exceeding one acre was 77,662 in 1912, a decrease of 287 as compared with 1911. The only group showing an increase was that of farms between 50 and 300 acres, which since 1895 have increased in number by about 20 per annum. Two-thirds of the holdings are of an area not exceeding 50 acres of cultivated land. The acreage in 1912 under cereal crops (1,210,621) was the largest for the last six years, the acreage under wheat (62,373) being greater than in any year save one since 1888; that under oats (956,575) was slightly under the average of the last ten years, while that under potatoes (149,768) was the largest since 1889. The area under permanent grass is practically stationary, while that under the heading of mountain and heath showed a considerable decrease from the figures of 1911. A feature specially remarked upon in the report is a decrease of 43,015 acres under rotation grass, while the net decrease in arable land, of which land under rotation grass forms a part, is only 23,541 acres. Thus the difference between these two (19,474 acres) represents an increase to that extent in the arable land under crops other than grass. It is curious that the report should have nothing to say with regard to the abnormal climatic conditions of 1912, which a year ago aroused widespread concern in Scotland as in England and Ireland.

The Irish statistics afford an interesting contrast to those of Scotland. Out of a total area of 20,371,125 acres, the area under corn and green crops, flax and fruit, amounted in 1912 to 2,358,056 acres; the area under hay was 2,487,349 acres, and the area of rotation and permanent pasture 9,828,373 acres, or no less than 48·2 per cent. of the total. If to the pasture is added the grazed mountain land, we get a total grazed area of 12,411,858 acres—*i.e.*, 60·9 per cent. of the total area of Ireland. In 1851 the area under corn crops was a trifle over three million acres; it is now a little over 1¼ million, each decade showing a rapid fall, in which all the four provinces shared. Since 1861 there has been also a heavy decline in the area under potatoes—from 1,133,504 to 595,184 acres, the decline being greatest in Munster and least in Ulster. The average yield of the potato crop in 1912 was estimated at 4·3 tons per statute acre, as against 6·2 tons in 1911, this immense difference being due mainly to the abnormal rainfall of June. The area under flax was 55,062 acres, a decrease of no less than 11,556 acres as compared with 1911, due to frosts in May and the rains of June. The total number of agricultural holdings was 608,796, of which 87,451 did not exceed one acre. The total number of occupiers was 552,894.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland for the year ended March 31st, 1913.

This Board is, of course, a "foreign" power, a Castle department, and since the abandonment of the aristocratic grand jury system and the passing of Irish local administration under popular control struggles between the central authority and the elected councils have been frequent. A strong central authority is no doubt required to check Nationalist tendencies towards political partisanship, but the Board is often in the bad books of both parties, and Unionists join with their opponents, particularly in criticising the arbitrary manner in which the Castle sometimes attempts to bully local bodies into extravagant expenditure. Relations appear to have been less strained of late, and this report of the affairs of the Board for the year ending March, 1913, tacitly concedes that the Act is now working fairly well. It is noted that in 1914 women can become candidates for election as county councillors, but the women who, according to the latest information,

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are already members of the other councils—borough, district, rural, etc.—only number 165 out of a total of about 1,700.

The Old Age Pension Acts, the National Insurance Act, and the Irish Labourers Acts have greatly added to the cares of the Board. Friction seems to arise occasionally in connection with the improvement schemes under the Labourers Acts submitted by the district councils to the Board. The petitions against Orders made by the Board's Inspectors provisionally confirming these schemes are numerous, and are often allowed. Regulations made by rural district councils with respect to the letting of cottages and allotments have to be confirmed in Dublin. There are now only four districts in which cottages have been authorised where the Board has yet to approve of the Regulations. At the time of the drawing up of the report the Board had a balance of £644,767, with which to provide 3,800 further cottages, but this was insufficient to meet all the schemes provisionally sanctioned, and it looked forward to the now apparently defunct Land Bill for aid.

Everyone in Ireland agrees as to the beneficial effects of the Labourers Acts; a less pleasing subject with which the report is concerned is that of Public Health. The pages dealing with this subject have great general interest, besides a painful significance. Ireland evidently has not yet fully realised the disgrace of her vital statistics. In Limerick (20·6 per thousand) and in all the principal Irish towns, including Dublin, we find a death rate which is extraordinarily in excess of that of the great towns of England, Wales, and Scotland. The reports printed in the Appendices from the Medical Inspectors of the Board show that it is often difficult to induce local authorities in the county districts to take suitable precautions and advice. The persistence of typhus fever in Ireland raises even more important issues. It is due to abominable standards of living and reveals the housing problem in its most sinister aspect. In the Dublin slums 26 cases were notified during the past year. There were outbreaks in Kilkenny, New Ross, Galway, Waterford, Cavan, Stranorlar, and other places. The story of the outbreak in Stranorlar is told in some detail. No case had occurred in the district for many years, and the house in which the epidemic started was an isolated one. The medical inspector finally adopted the opinion that the disease had been transmitted by a *second generation* of lice on second-hand clothing. The notorious misery of the congested districts about Spiddal, in Connemara, produced twenty-seven cases of the fever; the outbreak arose *de novo* from overcrowding and want of sanitation; no source of infection could be traced. The Congested Districts Board should seriously tackle Spiddal, where the problem of the West still exists in its most extreme form. In the Claddagh, near Galway—another picturesque home of typhus—the Board intends to co-operate with the rural council in a scheme for re-modelling and rebuilding.

LAW AND CRIME IN IRELAND

Judicial Statistics, Ireland, 1912. Part I.: Criminal Statistics. Cd 7064. 1s. 5d. Part II.: Civil Statistics. Cd. 6916. 9d.

We are here given a mass of statistics of civil proceedings in the Supreme Courts of Appeal, the divisions of the High Court of Justice, and in the larger and smaller District Courts. It would be a matter for lawyers to decide how much of the detail here furnished is justified and instructive; to the lay mind a great deal appears unnecessary and much seems to be duplicated. The 61 tables annexed to the 27 pages of report cover 66 pages in which there are great stretches of blanks; some thought given to rearrangement would save several pages. The report itself is a jejune summary of the tables which deal in detail with the courts from the High Court of Chancery to seven local Courts of Conscience. In the Supreme Court of Judicature nearly £2,240,000 was paid into court and about £2,305,000 paid out during the year, while the balance of cash, securities, and other effects carried forward was £5,566,000. In the County Courts there were 966 claims for malicious injury, of which 392 were in Ulster; £12,084 compensation (£3,359 in Ulster) was granted out of £21,398 claimed. Over a quarter of the compensation granted in Ulster was in respect of Belfast city. Another point of some social importance is that 710 notices of eviction were filed in 1912 (about 55 per cent. of the average number of the preceding five years). There were 547 ejectments for non-payment of rent and 421 for other causes. The table of proceedings against cottier and weekly tenants at petty sessions shows that 854 warrants were issued to special bailiffs for summary recovery of possession of tenements; and 20,331 to special bailiffs for summary recovery of possession of tenements, overholding in towns.

The total number of indictable crimes known to the police in Ireland during 1912 was 9,931, which is equal to an annual rate of 2·27 per thousand of the population; the average annual rate for the preceding ten years being 2·18 per 1,000 population. Notwithstanding the fact that the report is not particularly well digested, much interesting information can be gathered by those who care to examine the tables. A careful study of these brings out the following facts, among many others: (1) that the vast majority of indictable offences—7,196, or "nearly 73 per cent. of all offences known to the police"—are classed as "offences against property without violence," and of these 6,117, or 83 per cent., are larceny. (2) In the same class of offences 738 convicted prisoners, or 10·2 per cent., received sentences of over one month; the remainder, nearly 90 per cent., being sentenced to one month or less. (3) Of all convicted prisoners sentenced for indictable and non-indictable offences, 13,751 out of 25,448 (54 per cent.) are described as "Labourers, Charwomen, etc.," 3,157 are prostitutes, and 2,214 are "of no occupation." Thus 19,122—or over 75 per cent.—are unskilled workers (skilled mechanics, factory workers, clerks, etc., being placed in other columns). It is further interesting to note that of 25,448 persons sentenced to imprisonment in Ireland during 1912 less than one-sixth were sentenced to more than one month's imprisonment, while considerably over one-half served sentences of 14 days or less. Thus the greater part of indictable crime in Ireland is petty larcenies, committed largely by persons drawn from the ranks of casual labour. Such a deduction throws greater blame upon the organisation of society than upon the individual criminal.

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Third Report of the Development Commissioners, being the Report for the year ended March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 273. 7½d.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries: Memorandum showing Advances from the Development Fund, sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to or through the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, up to July 31st, 1913. Cd. 7085. 2½d.

For the years 1910–16 £2,900,000 has been allotted by Parliament to the Development Fund. Grants can only be made to certain bodies specified in the Act, and for certain specific purposes—generally speaking, for the development of agriculture and fisheries and for connected purposes such as forestry and the construction and improvement of canals and harbours. They cannot be made to persons or bodies trading for profit. The Treasury is the actual authority for making grants. It cannot make them without the recommendation of the Commissioners, but it can refuse to comply with the Commissioners' recommendations. The Commissioners draw attention to two disadvantages arising from their legal status and the limitations of their power. There is sometimes no suitable body to which they can make a grant, even when the expenditure of money for certain purposes is desirable. This is particularly the case in connection with land reclamation and canals. It is suggested that the formation of a voluntary association for purposes connected with land reclamation is eminently desirable. Secondly, when once a grant has been made in accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioners, they have no direct right of interference with or supervision over the expenditure of the money.

During the year 1912–13 grants and loans amounting to £293,807 were recommended. Three-quarters of this was devoted to purposes connected with agriculture and rural industries. The remainder was divided between forestry, harbours and fisheries. Assistance has been given to experiments in connection with the cultivation of tobacco, and the Commissioners were instrumental in uniting the growers into an association. Grants will probably be given soon to further the production of flax and hemp. Difficulties were experienced in connection with the encouragement of beet cultivation owing to the Brussels Sugar Convention. In England and Scotland the arrangements for assisting the growth of agricultural co-operation have worked smoothly. But in Ireland there has been considerable friction in connection with the opposition of certain politicians to the Agricultural Organisation Society. The Commissioners give a clear statement of the history of the negotiations connected with the proposal to give a grant to this society. Schemes for encouraging local authorities to afforest their water-catchment areas are slowly maturing. Here the Commissioners are best able to lay emphasis upon the importance of hastening or retarding work so as to counteract the fluctuations of the general demand for labour. It is clear from their report that they will lose no opportunity of making the greatest possible use of their influence to secure the execution of this policy, although their present scale of operations would not enable them to secure very far-reaching results in this direction.

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THE STATISTICAL ABSTRACTS

Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1898 to 1912. Cd. 7022. 1s. 11d.

Statistical Abstract relating to British India, from 1902–3 to 1911–12. Forty-seventh Number. Cd. 7078. 1s. 3d.

The making of statistical abstracts is like the making of anthologies. A large number of the selections is a matter of compulsion, and as for the remainder they are so much a question of personal choice that there is little to choose between editor and critic. When a publication has reached its sixtieth number its form has become stereotyped and almost venerable, and large-scale alterations become impossible. A few changes have been made in the statistics of income tax, articles retained for home consumption, and shipping, and a fresh table has been added showing the number of persons apprehended or summoned, with the results of proceedings in courts of summary jurisdiction. We might add, as almost casual suggestions, that the additional information obtained by the Board of Agriculture in their special inquiry of 1908 might be incorporated with the agricultural tables; that a summary of the census of production of 1907 would be more in place in this volume than in the Abstract of Labour Statistics; that the employment figures for non-textile factories and for workshops should be added to the table showing employment in textile factories; and that an explanatory note should be added to the migration tables, showing their limited validity. One would also like to see some of the tables from the Population Census Reports reproduced as to ages, housing, etc.; or, what would be still better, a new Abstract of Vital Statistics. Still these are relatively only minor criticisms. He who has used the Abstract before will buy the new number to-morrow, and he who has never used it should buy a copy at once.

Anyone accustomed to using the Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom, or that of the British Empire, would find the Indian Abstract a document of a widely different character. The difference is not easy to describe in a few words, but, roughly speaking, it comes to this, that the Abstract of British India comprises a considerably larger and more varied summary of social facts than either of the others, wherein finance and commercial and trade statistics are predominant. The compilers of the Indian Abstract have to work in a world of statistical records touching 315 millions of people, presenting endless varieties of character and condition. Hence the volume, if it is to serve its purpose in any degree, must find room for statistics relating to all kinds of subjects which have no counterparts in a western country; and others which for various reasons (Labour, for example) are excluded from the British Abstract. Within the compass of rather less than 300 pages we get a statistical survey of the population in all its complexity of races, castes, creeds and occupations; the administration, finance, trade and industry; wages and prices; railways and irrigation; agriculture and meteorology; public health, education, the Press, and the peril of wild animals. The main results of the Census of 1911 are given in an appendix, the figures of 1901 forming the first section of the volume. An introductory statement explaining the basis and method of compilation and the principle followed with regard to inclusion and exclusion would be a valuable addition to an indispensable Blue Book.

POOR LAW EXPENDITURE

Poor Relief (England and Wales): Copy of Statement of the amount expended by Boards of Guardians for Poor Relief during the half-year ended March 31st, 1912; and similar Statement for the half-year ended September 30th, 1912. H. of C. 111. 3d.

The total expenditure (other than out of loans) of Boards of Guardians in England and Wales connected with Poor Law Administration during the half-year ended September 30th, 1912, amounted to £7,289,368, of which £1,902,013 was spent in London Unions. As compared with the corresponding half-year of 1911, there is a total increase of 3·6 per cent. This increased expenditure, amounting to just over a quarter of a million, is accounted for by increases in expenditure on Out Relief (£72,000), salaries and superannuation allowances (£50,000), and various charges connected with the maintenance of indoor paupers in establishments. The maintenance of lunatics in county and borough asylums and registered hospitals and licensed houses (*i.e.* at the cost of the Poor Law authorities, but not under their care) was responsible for a further increase of nearly £33,000. The increased Out Relief was largely in consequence of the coal strike and the dispute in the transport trade.

THE CROWN COLONIES

Colonial Reports. Annual. (For reference numbers see Classified List.)

The reports on our Crown Colonies are divided into the following sections: financial; trade, agriculture, and industries; legislation; education; government institutions; judicial statistics; vital statistics; postal, telegraph, and telephone services; public works; and general observations.

St. Helena, with a civil population of 3,519, had a revenue of £8,042 plus a grant-in-aid of £2,000, and expenditure of £9,449; imports were £41,749 and exports £4,600. The Government runs a flax mill and a lace school; from the former the profits were £462, from the latter about £31. The development of flax-planting, the introduction of a cheaper form of power, and the development of lace sales in South Africa and Britain are absorbing the attention of the authorities. Unskilled wages are about 1s. 6d. a day and the cost of staple foods was higher, so that "the year was a hard one for the poorer classes."

An excellent map prefixed to the Ceylon report shows the plantations of rubber, tea, coconut, and cocoa—the principal industries of the island. Both in finance and in oversea trade the figures show a considerable and satisfactory expansion. India with rice and other foodstuffs did in 1911 nearly 47 per cent. of the import trade, while the United Kingdom did nearly 27 per cent., chiefly in cotton piece goods and metals. The United Kingdom took nearly 49 per cent. of the exports and the United States about 14 per cent. The exports in order of value are tea, coconut palm products, rubber, plumbago, areca-nuts, and cocoa. No pearl fishery has been held since 1907. The cultivation of tea, rubber, and coconuts offers the chief openings for investment of capital, especially coconuts.

These two reports may serve as a general suggestion of the character of the work done by the Colonial Governments. Some isolated points may be taken from the others. Salt evaporation is the leading industry of Turks Islands, and even there we find the "trust" in the shape of an "informal mutual understanding between local producers and certain dealers" to maintain prices. The Bahamas report is chiefly remarkable for a classification of exports on page 8, by which sponge is made to figure as a textile. Gambia reports a continued immigration of native farmers from French territories to take part in ground-nut culture. The northern territories of the Gold Coast include a population of about 400,000 persons "rescued from the tyranny of slave raiders, from the horrors of frequent inter-tribal warfare, and from the miseries and privations which these things brought in their train." Now the British Cotton-Growing Association is developing cotton cultivation in these districts. Cyprus had a good year, and "if the peasant could be roused to extricate himself from the grip of the usurer might easily become one of the most prosperous and flourishing little communities in the Mediterranean." The work of the Government in developing the agricultural resources, in road-making, and in combating malaria is most praiseworthy. It may be noted that the United Kingdom makes a grant of £50,000 a year, and that the annual tribute to Turkey is £92,800.

COMPANIES

Companies. Twenty-second Annual Report of the Board of Trade. H. C. 228. 1s. 4d.

The work of the Comptroller of the Companies Department of the Board of Trade under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, is covered in this report. During 1912, 7,367 companies were registered in the United Kingdom—the largest number in any year since 1862—and their nominal capital was £174,004,837. Lists of companies are given with their capital, amount issued otherwise than for cash, minimum subscription, underwriting commission, and directors' qualification, distinguishing those which filed a prospectus and those which filed a statement in lieu of a prospectus, and also distinguishing those to which certificates to begin business had or had not been granted. A list with the same particulars is also given of companies (other than "private companies") which did not file a prospectus or statement, and a nominal list of "private" companies without any details. Twenty-four companies had a capital of a million or over. In the year 2,062 companies went into liquidation (details being given of 151 wound up by order of the Court) and 1,808 were struck off as not carrying on business. Since 1862, 138,672 companies have been registered with a nominal capital of £7,709,000,000; there are now on the register 60,754 (including 42,736 "private" companies) with a nominal capital of nearly £2,426,000,000. The total loss of capital in liquidations in 1912 was £54,828,333, of which £28,496,829 came from the public.

IMPORTS OF FARM PRODUCE

Agricultural Statistics, 1912: Vol. XLVII., Part IV. Imports and Exports of Corn, Live Stock, and other Agricultural Produce. Cd. 7013. 5d.

Striking figures illustrating the vast growth of food imports during the past thirty years are furnished here. In the first group, representing animal food products of the farm, we get an increase from 41¼ millions sterling in 1876–82 to nearly 97½ millions in 1906–12, dead meat being responsible for an increase of 215 per cent., dairy produce for 130 per cent. Vegetable food products, again, show an increase from 96 millions sterling in 1876–82 to close upon 116½ millions in 1906–12.

The first group comprises produce competing directly with home produce; the second includes such products as maize, rice, sugar, etc., which compete only indirectly. Last year was abnormal as regards meat supplies. The number of cattle imported alive has been declining since 1905, when 565,000 were landed. In 1911 the number had fallen to 200,000; in 1912 it fell to less than one-fourth of that figure, the total being only 49,000. Imports of live sheep, which almost ceased in 1910, recovered slightly in 1911, and fell again to 15,000 last year. It is noted as curious that the imports of all meat, including that imported alive, have not in recent years kept pace with the population—a fact which may reflect a gradual change in the dietary of the English people. A table here given, covering twelve years, shows a material decline in the imported meat supply per head of the population. A partial explanation is that the diminution of the supplies from North America has not been balanced by a corresponding increase from the southern hemisphere. The present-day insignificance of the imports of live animals may be deduced from the fact that their value in 1912 was less than a million sterling, while in 1897 it was nearly 10½ millions. We import less barley than formerly (another fact of social import), but more of all other kinds of corn, more vegetables, apples, oranges, bananas. The imports of wool in 1912 were over 810 million pounds, valued at nearly 33½ millions sterling.

WOODS AND FORESTS

Ninety-first Report of the Commissioners of H.M. Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues. H. of C. 177. 1s.

There can be very few people, outside the Woods and Forests Office, who could give even a rough account of the estates controlled by the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and we are bound to say that anyone who turns for information to this volume (although it represents ninety years' experience) will not learn much unless he is prepared to worry hard at the accounts and tables, for as an annual report it is absurd. Exclusive of land let for building purposes, foreshores, and mineral rights, the Crown property under the charge of the Commissioners amounts to about 342,184 acres, of which about 67,684 acres are under the growth of timber. Parts of these woodlands are subject to common rights, and there are in addition 127,524 acres of unenclosed wastes subject to common rights. A simple test of the average ignorance would be a set of questions relating to one of the great Crown domains—say, Windsor, the New Forest, or the Forest of Dean. The parks and woods of Windsor absorbed during the year an expenditure of £42,589, of which sum just over £5,000 went in salaries and allowances and £13,188 in general repairs and maintenance. The receipts for the year were £7,402, of which £2,119 represented sales of timber and other produce. A curious little item is £108 0s. 6d. for "Venison fees and skins and horns of deer." The year's expenditure on the New Forest, a tract of some 65,000 acres, was £11,091, in which is included, for "trees, plants, seeds, etc.," the ridiculous sum of £13 3s. 6d. In the case of the New Forest, however, there is no such discrepancy between receipts and expenditure as in the case of Windsor, for the income was £10,359, the proceeds of the sales of produce being £5,698. In the case of the Forest of Dean the receipts (£12,307) slightly exceed the expenditure.

THE ROAD BOARD

Third Annual Report of the Road Board. H. of C. 222. 8d.

The point in the administration of the Road Board which seems most to need explanation is the very wide difference between the amount of the grants made, or "indicated," and the grants paid. Thus, up to March 31st last the total amount of grants made was £1,130,722, while the total actually paid was only £632,541, the balance unpaid being £498,181. Any highway authority may at any time apply for a grant or loan, and we are told that all applications are as far as possible dealt with by the Board when received. The delay occurs in the preparation of plans and specifications and in the negotiations with local authorities. The procedure in connection with this is set forth in detail by the authors of the report. The description should be of value to all members of local bodies having dealings with the Board. At the present time grants are being made on the assumption that the Board can safely indicate a sum of about £1,700,000 in addition to the indications made up to the end of June this year. The project of a new western road from South Kensington to Hounslow *via* Hammersmith and Brentford, estimated to cost £1,750,000, has been dropped, and there is now included in the indicated grants a sum of £400,000, the Board's share in an alternative scheme for a road from Kew Bridge to Hounslow. The receipts of the Road Improvement Fund from 1910 to 1913 were £3,437,285, and the estimated income for the year ending next March is £1,340,000. The appendices contain particulars of all road schemes approved, statistics of traffic, etc.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS

Public Works Loan Board Annual Report, with Appendices, for 1912 13. H. of C. 162. 11d.

The Public Works Loan Commissioners during the financial year 1912–13 made 1,712 advances for sums amounting to £4,554,683, as compared with 1,685 advances for £3,954,899 in 1911–12. Of the total, a trifle less than four million pounds was advanced on the security of local rates and £570,572 on the security of property. The rates of interest receivable in respect of Public Works Loan Board advances range from 3¼ to 4¼ per cent., but the average is highly consistent. The average rate of interest for 1912–13 was £3 11s. 1d. per cent., as against a penny more in the previous year. The loans secured on property are made under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts. A glance through the list of borrowers shows to what an extraordinarily large extent the Garden City and Garden Suburb movement has been aided by the Loan Board. Thus Letchworth, represented by three societies, has borrowed more than £60,000, while the Hampstead Garden Suburb, also represented by three associations, has borrowed to the extent of nearly £160,000. The London Housing Society has borrowed nearly £50,000, and, in fact, the list of outstanding advances made under the Housing Act is virtually a list of the non-statutory agencies which are at work on the improvement of housing conditions. The loans which are secured on rates have been advanced for a number of purposes under Allotments, Education, Housing of the Working Classes, Poor Law and Public Health Acts, while sums have also been advanced to local authorities on the security of property.

A RECORD OF SIXTY YEARS

Return for the United Kingdom for selected years (1851 to 1912) showing various Particulars as to Trade, Commerce, and Condition of the People (population, birth-rate, death-rate, paupers, imports and exports, prices and consumption of food stuffs, etc.) H. of C. 248. ½d.

We have to thank Sir Walter Essex for obtaining this remarkably comprehensive return, filling only two foolscap pages. Its analysis would help not a little towards forming an estimate of the changing condition of the British people during the past sixty years. A few of the more significant figures may be quoted. The population in 1851 was 27 millions; in 1912 it was 45 millions. In 1871 the death-rate was 21·5 per thousand; in 1912 it had fallen to 13·8. The birth-rate was 33·8; it had fallen to 24. In 1871 there were 364 paupers to every ten thousand of the population; in 1912 there were 212. In 1861 the net imports per head were £6 6s. 6d.; in 1912 they were £13 17s. 2d. The corresponding figures for exports are: 1861, £4 6s. 5d.; 1912, £10 13s. 5d In 1851 (six years after the repeal of the Corn Laws) the average price of wheat was 38s. 6d. per quarter; it had risen to 56s. 8d. in 1871; in 1912 it was 34s. 9d. First-quality beef in the London market was 3s. 2½d. per stone of 8 pounds in 1851; in 1912 it was 5s. 6d., the highest figure, previously reached only in 1881. The income tax in 1861 yielded £1,162,250; in 1911 it yielded £2,831,000—a surprisingly small figure in view of the immense concentration of the national wealth during the past half-century in the hands of the commercial, professional, and capitalist classes.

XUM

RAILWAYS AT HOME AND ABROAD

State Railways (British Possessions and Foreign Countries). Return showing . . . (*a*) in what Foreign Countries and British Possessions the Railways have been in whole or part either built or acquired by the Government, &c. H. of C. 287. 7½d.

Returns of the Capital, Traffic, Receipts and Working Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1912. Cd. 6954. 1s. 3d.

Administrative Report on the Railways in India for the year 1912. Cd. 6890. 5s. 6d.

The paid-up capital of the railways of the United Kingdom was at the end of 1912 1,335 millions, having been increased by 11 millions since 1911; 198·5 millions of this, or 15 per cent. of the whole, represented nominal additions. This watered stock was increased by £400,000 in 1912. The average rate of dividend in the ordinary capital was 3·45 per cent. in 1912, as compared with 3·52 per cent. in 1911. The number of passengers, exclusive of season-ticket holders, decreased by 2·4 per cent. as against 1911, while the passenger train mileage decreased 4·3 per cent. But the increase from passenger receipts was 0·6 per cent. Each passenger, exclusive of season-ticket holders, paid on the average 7·3d. instead of 7·1d. Similarly the companies managed to extract more money for less work in connection with the goods traffic. The decrease in goods traffic was, however, confined to "minerals." The "general merchandise" conveyed increased from 113·8 million tons by 5 million tons, and provided an increased yield of £1,360,000.

The valuable return with regard to State railways, obtained by Mr. Chiozza Money, and already dealt with in our editorial columns, shows that in the whole world outside the United Kingdom (and excluding the colonial possessions of foreign countries) there are 174,917 miles of railway operated by governments, including apparently 11,030 miles which are privately owned and State-operated; 424,232 miles are operated by private enterprise, including, apparently, 33,596 miles which are owned by governments. Nearly 250,000 miles of the privately operated railways are in the United States. In the British self-governing dominions there are 28,453 miles of State-owned and State-operated railways; 825 miles are State-owned and privately operated; 28,833 miles (nearly the whole being in Canada) are privately owned and operated. Over 2,000 miles, or 8 per cent., of the Canadian railways are State-owned and State-operated. The length of British and Irish railways reached 23,441 miles at the end of 1911. In only 10 out of 42 foreign countries are there no railways owned by the State. In about a dozen others private railways either do not exist or are comparatively insignificant. In the remaining 21 foreign countries governments and private companies share the ownership and operation of railways in varying proportions, according to which they are roughly classified by the compilers of the return.

The administration report of the Indian railways (produced in India, where labour and printing are cheap) is a bulky volume of over 500 pages, mainly tables. It shows that 668 miles of new line were opened during the year, bringing the total up to 33,484, and that at the end of 1912 there were 2,455 miles of line sanctioned or under construction. The profit to the State on the year's working was rather over 5 millions sterling, the net earnings yielding a return on open lines of 6·77 per cent. The total number of passengers carried was over 417 millions. The report discusses briefly some of the current criticisms of the system, notably in relation to congestion.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

Summary of Accidents and Casualties reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending March 31st, 1913. Cd. 7038. 1s. 1d.

During the first three months of this year 284 were killed and 2,457 were injured on the railways in the United Kingdom, both figures showing an increase over the corresponding figures of last year. Thirty of the killed and 789 of the injured were passengers. The Board of Trade classification includes under "killed" only persons who die very soon after the accident. The bulk of this return is occupied with reports and evidence collected by Lieut.-Col. von Donop and Major Pringle as to 8 accidents. These are tentative and very gentle. Thus: "His booked hours, viz., 12½, which include an interval in the shed at Carlisle, appear to be longer than the Board of Trade hold to be reasonable for engine men." Or, again: "The company should, I think, seriously consider the advisability of prohibiting the lowering of the intermediate signal for a starting train until the starting signal is also off."

LIST OF PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

(Received since August 25, 1913.)

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Board of Agriculture: Scheme for the Improvement of Live Stock. Cd. 7044. 1d.

[On the recommendation of the Development Commission a grant of £37,000 is made to the Board for the purpose named. The main object is to afford means of demonstrating to farmers that it is good economy to use only sound and high-class sires, and to keep records of the milk yield of dairy cows. Preference in making grants to be given to occupiers of agricultural holdings, the provision of bulls, boars, and stallions to be made, wherever possible, through the medium of clubs and societies.]

Agricultural Statistics, 1912. Vol. I. Part I. Acreage and Live Stock Returns of Scotland, with a Summary for the United Kingdom. Cd. 6966. 5d. (See review, p. 10.)

Memorandum showing Advances from the Development Fund, to or through the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, up to July 31st, 1913. Cd. 7085. 2½d. (See review, p. 11.)

The Ninety-first Report of the Commissioners of H.M. Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues. H. of C. 117. 1s. (See review, p. 13.)

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries: Annual Report of Proceedings under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts, etc., for the year 1912. Cd. 7086. 9½d.

[Salmon fishing in 1912 was below the average as regards netting, generally above it as regards angling. The boxes of salmon received at Billingsgate numbered 24,723: in 1911 they were 30,282. Average price at Billingsgate, 1s. 6½d. per lb. The detailed reports from the various grounds are full of points. An excellent map is provided.]

Census and Registration.

Seventy-fourth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England and Wales, 1911. Cd. 6578. 5s. 8d. (See review, p. 2.)

Return of Quarterly Summary of the Marriages, Births, and Deaths registered in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, with comparisons of the corresponding figures for a period of ten years. H. of C. 261. ½d.

[A very useful comparative return, obtained at the instance of Mr. Chiozza Money.]

Civil Services, Army, and Navy.

Select Committee on Post Office Servants (Wages and Conditions of Employment). H. of C. 268. Vol. I., Report, 2s. 4d.; Vol. II., Minutes of Evidence, 6s. 3d.; Proceedings, 1s. 10d. (See review in the August Supplement.)

Education.

Abstracts of Accounts of Secondary Schools on the Grant List in England, 1911–12. Cd. 7043. 4d. (See review, p. 8.)

Regulations providing for Grants in aid of Local Education Authorities in England and Wales exercising powers under the Education (Choice of Employment) Act, 1910. Cd. 7076. ½d. (See review, p. 8.)

Board of Education, Welsh Department: Regulations for the Preliminary Education of Elementary School Teachers. Cd. 7005. 2½d. (See review, p 8.)

Board of Education: Regulations for the Preliminary Education of Elementary School Teachers in England. Cd. 7093. 2½d.

Finance and Taxation.

Return for the Year ending November 20th, 1912, from each Savings Bank in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands. H. of C. 214. 2d.

[There are 1,870,510 depositors in the 211 Trustee Savings Banks, having nearly 54 million pounds to their credit, or an average of £28 15s. 4d. each. Each transaction costs 6·3d. on the average. Nearly all the banks pay 2½ per cent. on deposits. The expenses of management are slightly over £160,000.]

The Annual Local Taxation Returns, 1911–12. Part I. H. of C. 120. 9½d. (See review, p. 10.)

Report from the Select Committee on Estimates, with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices. H. of C. 231. 2s. 5d.

Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Public Works Loan Board, 1912–13, with Appendices. H. of C. 162. 11d. (See review, p. 13.)

London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894: Accounts (under Section 1 (7) of the Act). H. of C. 296. ½d.

[Gives the amounts paid during the year ended March 31st, 1913, to the Metropolitan Borough Councils, the expenses incurred by the councils, and the amounts expended by them out of the sums received.]

ACCOUNT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1913. H. of C. 59. ½d.

Housing and Town-Planning.

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD: PART II., HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING. Cd. 6981. 7d. (See review, p. 9.)

Imperial and Foreign Affairs.

DESPATCH FROM HIS MAJESTY'S CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT BANGKOK, ENCLOSING A COPY OF THE SIAMESE LAW OF NATIONALITY, BUDDHA ERA 2456. Cd. 7057. ½d.

TREATY SERIES: United Kingdom and Honduras, Cd. 7055, ½d.; United Kingdom and Germany (Africa), Cd. 7056, 1s. 7d.; United Kingdom and Norway, Cd. 7095, ½d.; United Kingdom and Paraguay, Cd. 7096, ½d.; United Kingdom and Costa Rica, Cd. 7097, ½d.

REPORT AND SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUTUMAYO, WITH PROCEEDINGS, MINUTES OF EVIDENCE, AND APPENDICES. H. of C. 148. 5s. 3d.

[The full Blue Book, including the two reports issued, under the same reference number, in July.]

COLONIAL REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES, REPORTS FOR 1912.—736, Somaliland; 759, Sierra Leone; 760, Seychelles; 762, Hong Kong; 764, Falkland Islands; 765, Northern Territories of the Gold Coast; 766, Bahamas; 767, Gambia; 768, Fiji. (See review, p. 12.)

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO AFFAIRS IN SOMALILAND. Cd. 7066. 6½d.

Diplomatic and Consular Reports.

ANNUAL SERIES, REPORTS FOR 1912.—5184, Turkey (Beirut); 5185; Egypt (Port Said); 5186, France (Madagascar); 5187, Switzerland; 5188, Greece (Piræus); 5189, Denmark (Faroe Islands and Iceland), 5190, Cuba; 5191, Japan (Kobe); 5192, China (Tientsin); 5193, China; 5194, Germany (Bavaria); 5196, Spain (Bilbao); 5198, Muscat; 5199, China (Canton); 5200, Siam (Chiengmai); 5201, China (Ningpo); 5202, Sweden (Gothenburg); 5203, Italy (Brindisi); 5204, Persia (Kermanshah); 5205, Austria-Hungary; 5206, United States (New Orleans); 5207, China (Shanghai); 5211, Persia (Khorasan); 5212, Germany (Hamburg); 5213, Italy (Leghorn). (See review, p. 6.)

India.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN FINANCE AND CURRENCY: INTERIM REPORT, Cd. 7068, ½d.; MINUTES OF EVIDENCE, Vol. I., Cd. 7069, 2s. 10d.; Appendices, Vol. I., Cd. 7070, 2s. 10d.; Vol. II., Cd. 7071, 2s. 5d.; Index, Cd. 7072, 6d.

[The report is formal merely, presenting the minutes of evidence, which contain, among other things, a full official exposition of India Office finance.]

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT RELATING TO BRITISH INDIA, FROM 1902–3 TO 1911–12. Cd. 7078. 1s. 3d. (See review, p. 12.)

ADMINISTRATION REPORT ON THE RAILWAYS OF INDIA, 1912. Cd. 6890. 5s. 6d. (See review, p. 14.)

REVIEW OF THE TRADE OF INDIA IN 1912–13. Cd. 6960. 1s. 1d. (See review, p. 5.)

Ireland.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE DUBLIN HOSPITALS, 1912–13. Cd. 6989. 3d.

REPORT ON AN EXPLOSION AT THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION, BRAY, IRELAND, JULY 10TH, 1912. Cd. 6964. 5d.

RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF EVICTIONS FROM AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS WHICH HAVE COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTABULARY, AND ALSO OF THE NUMBER OF TENANCIES DETERMINED IN THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1913. Cd. 7075. ½d.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD FOR IRELAND FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1913. Cd. 6978. 1s. 9d. (See review, p. 10.)

THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND, 1911–12. Cd. 6986. 5d. (See review, p. 8.)

APPENDIX TO THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND, 1911–12. Section I., Cd. 7061, 9½d.; Section II., Cd. 7062, 4½d.

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRISONS BOARD, IRELAND, 1912–13. Cd. 6996. 3d.

[Ireland's criminals are growing fewer. The daily average number in custody has steadily fallen from 2,606 in 1905 to 2,280 last year. The number of convicts has risen slightly, but there has been a substantial drop in ordinary prisoners. The total number of prisoners committed has also shown a distinct dropping off, and in 1912 amounted only to 29,231. Of these just over 10,000 were committed for drunkenness or riotous or disorderly behaviour. The decrease in the number of prisoners committed is accompanied by a decreasing average sentence. The cause of removal of the Suffragettes who obtained release on medical grounds from Mount Joy prison is put down as starvation (voluntary).

THE SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT (WITH APPENDICES) OF THE INSPECTORS OF LUNATICS (IRELAND) FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1912. Cd. 6935. 11½d.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1912. Cd. 6977. 3d.

[The most notable event of the year was the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which had been unknown in Ireland for 28 years. The vigorous steps taken by the department secured its suppression within the year. The adverse influence of the outbreak on the trade in livestock was, of course, considerable, but the trade had begun to revive by the end of 1912.]

BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING STATISTICS, IRELAND, JUNE, 1913. Cd. 7083. 5d.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, IRELAND, 1913. Cd. 7063. 2d.

[The acreage under crops and the numbers and classes of live-stock in Ireland in 1913 are given by counties and provinces. The total area under tillage is remarkably constant, the annual change in acreage being generally less than 1 per cent., and the variations are not always in the same direction. On the other hand, there are slight decreases in the numbers of horses and sheep and a substantial decrease in the number of pigs. The total numbers of cattle and of poultry have slightly increased.]

REPORT ON THE TRADE IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT IRISH PORTS DURING 1912. Cd. 7059. 10½d.

[Contains, in addition to its uniquely cacophonous title, the figures of three distinct classes of trade: (1) Direct trade in Ireland and all other countries outside of Great Britain; (2) the indirect trade of Ireland with these same countries, *viâ* Great Britain, and (3) the local trade between Ireland and Great Britain. The Department of Agriculture has done its best, but the present system of returns upon which the report is based is confessedly inadequate.]

Labour and Industrial Regulation.

STATISTICS OF COMPENSATION AND OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1880, DURING THE YEAR 1912. Cd. 7088. 6d. (See review, p. 4.)

REPORT TO THE HOME DEPARTMENT ON ACCIDENTS OCCURING IN SHIPBUILDING YARDS. Cd. 7046. 1d.

SECOND REPORT TO THE HOME DEPARTMENT ON THE DRAFT REGULATIONS TO BE MADE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PATENT FUEL, ETC. Cd. 7051. 2d.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION SCHEME: Statement of Settlements regarding Questions as to Rates of Wages, Hours of Labour, and Conditions of Service of Railway Employees . . ., as amended by the Railway Conference Agreement of 1911. Cd. 7037. 2s. 3d.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DISEASES. Cd. 6957. 1s. 5d.

REPORT ON AN EXPLOSION OF DETONATOR COMPOSITION AT THE FACTORY OF MESSRS. KYNOCH AT HOLFORD MILLS, NEAR BIRMINGHAM, ON JULY 29TH, 1913. Cd. 7090. 1d.

RETURN SHOWING THE LIVES LOST BY WRECK, DROWNING, OR OTHER ACCIDENT IN BRITISH SEAGOING MERCHANT SHIPS REGISTERED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE YEARS 1893 TO 1912 INCLUSIVE. Cd. 7077. 1d.

[Total loss in 1912 of masters and seamen, 1,803; with passengers, 2,644, a figure considerably above the average. Detailed explanations of the abnormal years would be required to make the return intelligible.]

REPORT TO THE HOME SECRETARY ON THE PROPOSED GENERAL EARLY CLOSING ORDER FOR THE BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL, by Samuel Pope. Cd. 7082. 2½d.

REPORT ON THE BY-LAW MADE BY THE DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ACT, 1903, AND ON THE OBJECTIONS THERETO, by Samuel Pope. Cd. 6988. 2d.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TRADE BOARDS ACT PROVISIONAL ORDERS BILL; together with the Proceedings of the Committee and the Minutes of Evidence. H. of C. 209. 6½d. (See review, p. 3.)

MINES AND QUARRIES: Reports of H.M. Inspectors for 1912: Districts 1 to 8. Cd. 6983, I.–VIII. 5½d. to 1s. 6d. (See review, p. 8.)

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES REPORTED TO THE BOARD OF TRADE BY THE SEVERAL RAILWAY COMPANIES IN THE U.K. DURING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1913. Cd. 7038. 1s. 1d. (See review, p. 14.)

Poor Law.

COPY OF STATEMENT OF THE AMOUNT EXPENDED BY BOARDS OF GUARDIANS FOR POOR RELIEF DURING THE HALF-YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1912. H. of C. 111. 3d. (See review, p. 12.)

Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.

TRANSLATION OF THE NEW DRAFT CUSTOMS TARIFF FOR BRAZIL, WITH COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED AND EXISTING RATES OF DUTY. Cd. 7094. 1s. 3d. (See review, p. 5.)

COMPANIES: TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT BY THE BOARD OF TRADE. H. of C. 228. 1s. 4d. (See review, p. 12.)

Prices of Exported Coal: Return giving the Quantities of Coal exported from each of the Ports of the United Kingdom by quarterly periods in 1912. H. of C. 288. 2d.

[This is an extremely irritating little document. Presumably the prices given are f.o.b., but there is nothing to say so. Moreover, exports are arranged according to prices per ton to show the quantities exported "at prices not exceeding 5s., above 5s. but not exceeding 6s., above 6s. but not exceeding 7s., and so on." The tables go on shilling by shilling until they get to 16s. per ton, and then the total export exceeding 16s. a ton is lumped together in one column. As this column happens to include about one-sixth of the total quantity of coal exported, and certainly a considerably higher proportion of the total value, we find the tables singularly unenlightening.]

Transport and Communications.

Report from the Select Committee on Motor Traffic, together with the Proceedings of the Committee, H. of C. 278, 9d.; Evidence, Vol. I., 3s. 11d.; Vol. II., 5s. 3d. (See review, p. 9.)

Returns of the Capital, Traffic, Receipts and Working Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1912, etc. Cd. 6954. 1s. 3d. (See review, p. 14.)

State Railways (British Possessions and Foreign Countries). H. of C. 287. 7½d. (See review, p. 14.)

Light Railways Act, 1896: Glamorgan County Council (Morriston to Pontardawe) Light Railways (Revival as to Part) Order, 1913. Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners and confirmed by the Board of Trade. Cd. 6902. 1d.

Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, authorising the Construction of Light Railways in the County of Kent. From Wingham to Stodmarsh and from Great Mongeham to Ripple. Cd. 6500. 1d.

Preliminary Conference in London on the further Protection of Submarine Telegraph Cables: Procès-Verbaux and annexes. Cd. 7079. 4d.

Report on the Proceedings of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in relation to the Complaints of Damage to Submarine Cables by Trawlers. Cd. 7091. 1½d.

Account showing the Money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the Provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901, etc., to March 31st, 1913, together with the Report of the Chairman of the Pacific Cable Board. H. of C. 256. 1½d.

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Miscellaneous.

Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1898 to 1912. Cd. 7022. 1s. 11d. (See review, p. 12.)

Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal: Standards and Tests for Sewage discharging into Rivers and Streams. Vol. II. Appendix. Cd. 6943. 2s. 9d.

Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 26): Return respecting its application during Session 1913. H. of C. 265. 2½d.

Third Report of the Development Commissioners for the year ended March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 273. 7½d. (See review, p. 11.)

Report of the Government Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended March 31st, 1913, with Appendices. Cd. 7001. 3d.

[A large part of the work carried on at the laboratory consists in the examination of samples of liquor in connection with the duty, and a lot of amusing and rather startling results are obtained. Some of these, in relation to beer, cider, spirits, medicines, etc., are here set forth.]

Eighth Annual Report of the Meteorological Committee to the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury for the year ended March 31st, 1913. Cd. 6999. 1s.

[This report consists of a number of odds and ends of varying value from various sources. Perhaps the point of most general interest is that the Meteorological Committee proposes to introduce the C.G.S. system for measuring pressures in the daily weather reports from May 1st, 1914.]

Ninth Report of the Inspector for Scotland under the Inebriates Act, for the year 1912. Cd. 7058. 1d.

[Seven institutions, including the State Inebriates' Reformatory, are covered. The earliest of these were established in 1901. The admissions numbered 157, and the total number dealt with 252, a small decrease on previous years. The institutions are all well spoken of by the inspector, Mr. J. C. Dunlop; mention is made of the marked change for the better in the conduct of the inmates of the State Reformatory, and it is claimed that the shutting up of drunken and vicious women in the Greenock house of refuge has had a decided influence for good upon the women and girls in the town. But nothing is said in the report as to methods of curative treatment or results.]

Statistics as to the Operation and Administration of the Laws relating to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquor in England and Wales for the year 1912. Cd. 7040. 2s. 5d. (See review, p. 9.)

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments: Third Interim Report.—The ancient monuments of North Buckinghamshire. Cd. 7084. 4d.

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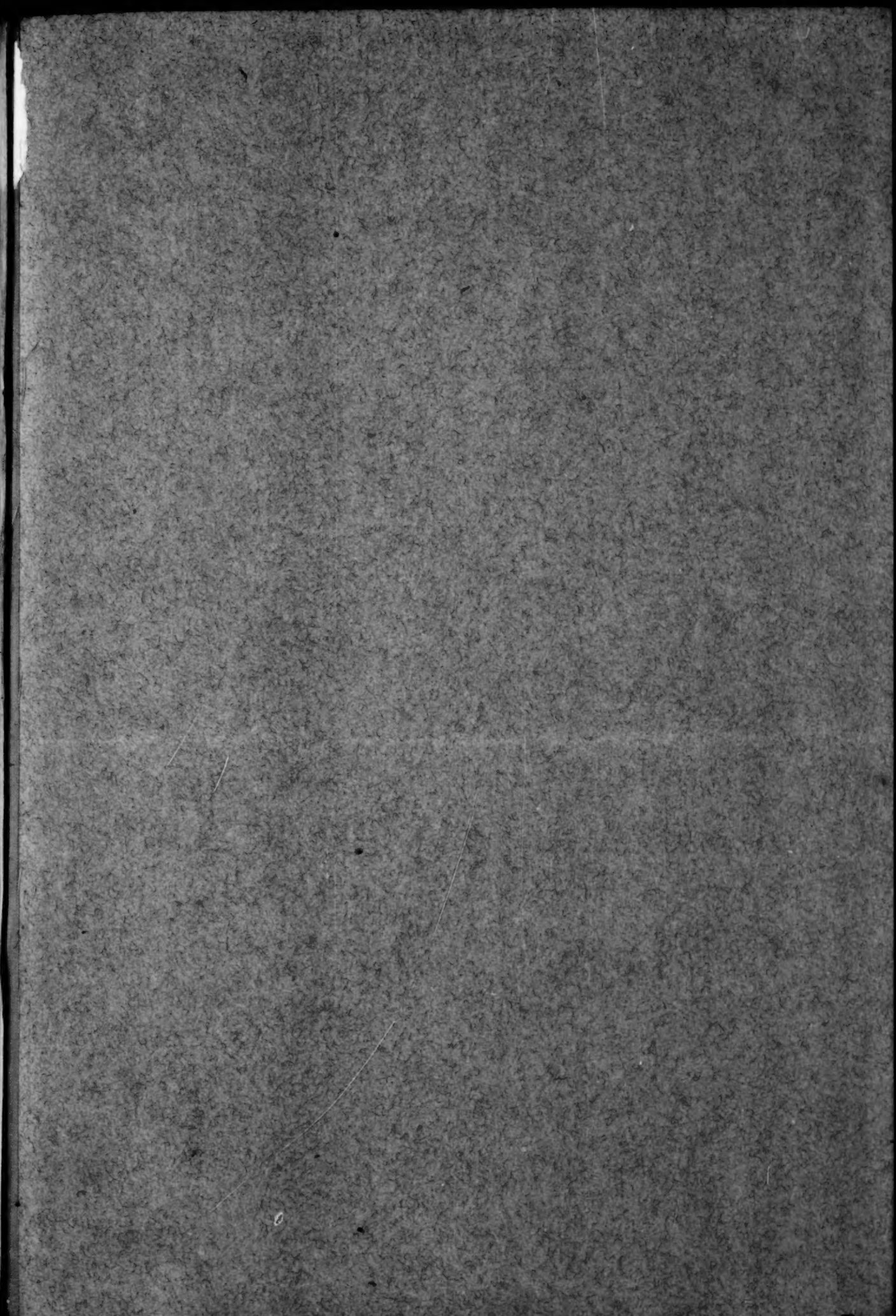
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